The Middlebury Campus

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Concert of efforts results in significant student wage hike

By Ashley Elpern
News Editor

Setting the standard for other higher education institutions, the Middlebury College Student Government Association (SGA), the Office of Service Learning and Student Employment and the Human Resources Department have implemented a student wage scale of unprecedented detail and attention, creating highly competitive salaries for student workers.

As of Feb. 1, 2001, all student wages have been re-evaluated and placed in the same skill levels as comparable staff jobs, based upon job summaries completed by each College employer. Students' wages are now based upon the pay rate for comparable staff salaries, as students entering their first year of employment will receive 80 percent of the staff rate.

Now on a merit-based system for promotions, after one year of commitment, a student worker will receive a 5 percent wage increase, and by the fourth year of service in the same field, a student can expect to be making 95 percent of what a staff worker in the comparable field receives per hour.

SGA President Ben Johns '01 called the change in policy "a boost for the SGA and for all students at the College." Johns commented in an interview on Monday that he has seen a surge in student confidence in the SGA and in employment that has not been evident for years, resulting from the increased wage plan.

"The idea for a wage increase for student workers was originally on my platform [for the presidential election last spring]," said Johns. "I did preliminary research and noticed that our wages for students was much lower than at other colleges. Most of them paid their workers 60 cents or 70 cents above the state minimum wage and our wage scale had not changed for many years."

Johns stated two primary reasons why the current wage scale had to be readjusted. The first was the low wages for international student workers, most of whom have to work often to pay for work-study jobs and also to earn necessary spending money. These students are not allowed to find jobs off campus because of legal limita-

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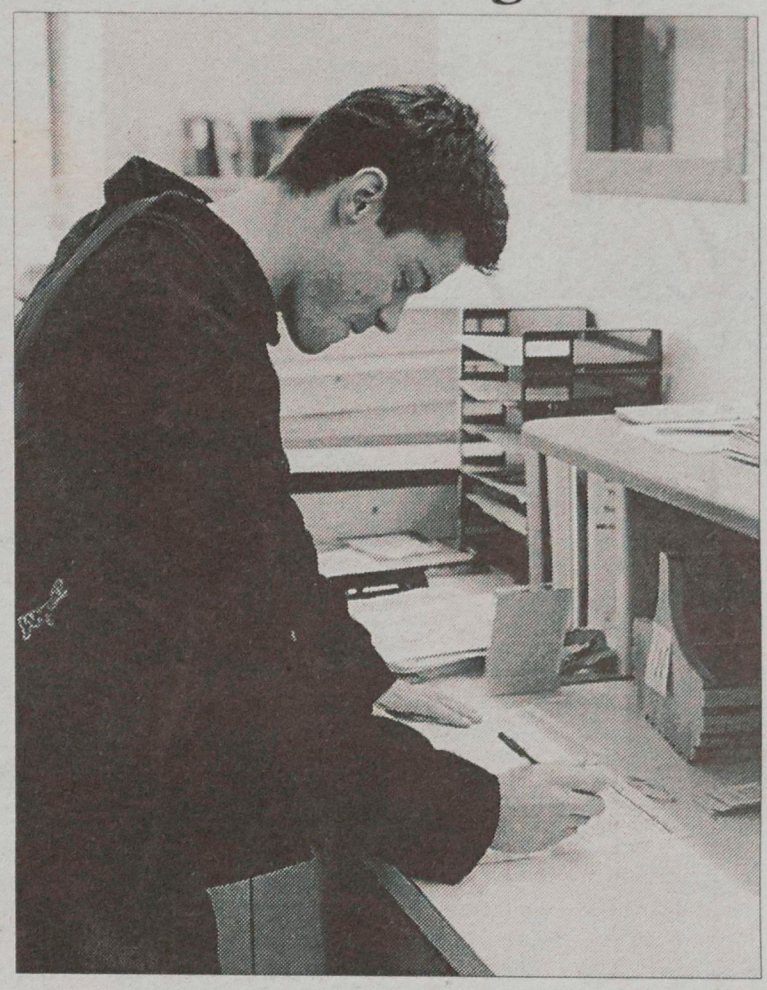

Andrew Corrigan

Lowell Alexander '02 fills out a W-4 form in the student employment office.

Increase in Feb students creates housing puzzle

By Julia Urcis
Staff Writer

Usually capped at 115 students, the Feb Class of 2004.5 has 124 students, due primarily to the fact that the number of regular fall semester first-years decided to defer matriculation for a semester.

Director of Admissions John Hanson noted that there was an atypical number of unfortunate circumstances causing students to retract their fall enrollment

While Hanson said that Middlebury College works hard to accommodate as many students as possible, unexpected circumstances leave the College with more students than anticipated

Linked with the surplus of enrolled students is the challenge of finding rooms for the new first-years. Most found accommodations in clusters of their Feb peers, sticking to a trend employed in the past.

On the other hand, placement of incoming Febs directly depends on the location of available housing on campus.

Residential Systems Coordinator Hikaru Kozuma explained that housing is a "giant puzzle in which the pieces are continually changing."

There is a general pattern for organizing how the housing is going to proceed but Febs tend to be one of the more complex groups of students to house due to the awkward time of year that they matriculate.

Another factor that sometimes makes the housing situation difficult is the number of students returning from studying abroad or from leaves of absence.

Kozuma explained that the off-campus study office coordinates the schedules of returning students so that there is a less erratic change in the expected number of rooms needed.

"When things start getting complex and frustrating," said Kozuma, "people have to remember that we sometimes just cannot help students, even when we really want to."

He said that there really is not much flexibility at the moment with housing, but that the situation is not nearly as complex as it could be.

SGA chiefs anticipate spring projects

By Tim McCahill
Assistant News Editor

NEWS analysis

For a man with a full course load and an entire student body to represent, Student Government Association (SGA) President Ben Johns appears the picture of relaxation. Sitting comfortably in his Forest West room on Monday evening, Johns talked avidly and animatedly about his and the SGA's goals for the upcoming semester. These are many and varied, and Johns apologized occasionally for seeming too long-winded when describing the key platform issues he has tackled – and periodically achieved – since being elected in April of 2000.

Topping his list of achievements was Johns' restructuring of the SGA itself, cutting the body in half and re-locating it to a conference room in Old Chapel from the Warner Hemicycle. These were significant changes, for with a dramatically altered size, student representatives have been able to work more closely together in an environment more similar to a workshop than a government meeting.

Capitalizing upon this new work setting, Johns organized student senators into smaller "teams," each responsible for working on a different project. Johns mentioned that these vary from re-examining how varsity sports should be counted as physical education credits to establishing a set of collegiate traditions specific to Middlebury. A small but important shift away from simply creating committees to examine certain problems, Johns' project teams are "more accountable" for the work they do.

"The key with any body is to keep them motivated. This can be a real struggle," Johns said. While student senators do occasionally find schoolwork or other extracurricular activities "piling up on their end," they still must report back to Johns and the senate on how much progress is being made with regards to the tasks they have taken on.

Another aspect of Johns' administrative re-structuring is increasing the student senate's notoriety among College faculty and staff. Because many of the senator's projects involve working with existing school policy, representatives sometimes find themselves dealing with key members of Middlebury's administration.

This is something Johns is particularly proud of. "Senators are now held in high regard," Johns mentioned. "This is a pivotal change." The president says that while the student senate may have only performed a "series of small achievements" perhaps less well known to the student body at large, these are nonetheless im-

(see SGA, page 6)

Hats off!

Andrew Corrigan

Letting their hats fly high into the air at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl, *members of the Class of 2000.5 posed for a picture after skiing down the slopes at the traditional Feb graduation.*

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COLLEGE shorts

By Ashley Elpern
News Editor

NYU refuses to say 'nevermore' to Poe's residence

The New York University School of Law agreed last month to replicate the façade where Edgar Allan Poe once lived, on 85 West Third Street, in Greenwich Village. The university owns the building and plans to tear it down and replace it with a larger complex. The decision came after 14 months of negotiations between university administration and the Historic Districts Council, which charged that the proposed new building was too large and wanted to preserve the former home of the legendary Poe. When Poe's residence is demolished, the university will salvage lintels, window frames and other materials from the exterior to replicate them in the new design. Simon Bankhoff, executive director of the Historic Districts Council, said his group is "pleased [the university] is not going to destroy this historic building in its entirety."

Secretary of Education says Bush won't end lending

Roderick R.Paige, the recently confirmed secretary of education in the Bush Administration, affirmed in his Senate confirmation hearing that the president has no plans to dismantle the direct loan program. Senators Jack Reed D-R.I. and Ed Kennedy of D-Mass. voiced concerns about the Bush administration's plans for direct lending, which provides loans directly through colleges, eliminating the role of banks and guarantee agencies. Many Republican lawmakers – and the lenders that contribute to their campaigns – would like Bush to eliminate direct lending. Paige said he expected direct lending to continue alongside the guaranteed-loan program. As to concerns over Pell Grants, currently at a maximum of $3,300 which Bush plans to raise to $5,100 with a larger grant for first-year students, several Democratic senators worry that such a large increase for first-years would reduce the amount of money available to returning students. Paige said Bush's proposal would add money for first-year students but not reduce support for returning students. Those students would remain eligible for the maximum grant that Congress approves each year.

Affirmative action reassessed in California

The University of California Board of Regents is considering overturning the 1995 policy barring the use of affirmative action in the university's admission process. The move would be largely symbolic because of a voter-approved statewide ban on racial preferences. Last year, the number of under-represented minority students admitted as first-years on University of California campuses surpassed for the first time, the number from 1997, the last year affirmative action was used in the admission process. Regent William Bagley, who plans to sponsor the resolution, abstained from the 1995 vote, which passed 14 to 10 in favor of the ban. Bagley conceded that the proposal would have little practical effects but hopes it could have an effect on current outreach efforts of the University of California , which spends over $250 million on outreach in the state's elementary and high schools, as well as in community colleges.

Cheating scandal uncovered at Trinity

The Trinity College Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) ruled to convict five of 14 students suspected of cheating in Professor Gary Reger's Greek and Roman history class on Friday, Feb. 1. Three of the five were sentenced to a one-semester suspension and one received a one-semester censure. The teaching assistant (TA) of the class was suspended for three semesters. According to *The Trinity Tripod*, the students with one-semester sentences were guilty of soliciting or distributing materials as well as using them on a final exam. The AAC acknowledged that nine other students had gotten hold of unauthorized material before the exam, but there was insufficient evidence to prove that they solicited, distributed or used the material. The incident began last semester when the TA e-mailed a copy of the final exam to a number of students in the class. The information was then relayed through these students to others in the class. One student contacted the professor prior to the exam by an anonymous e-mail notifying him that copies of the exam were circulating around the class. Following confirmation by other students, Reger moved to change the content of the test. According to the dean of students office, Reger was still unaware of the TA's involvement and allowed the TA to proctor half of the exam. At the end of last semester, Reger became aware of the TA's involvement and handed the case over to the AAC.

Sources: *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Trinity Tripod*

Alum inspires senior class donations

Venture capitalist Jed Smith '88 offers $200 for each contribution over $20

By Devin Zatorski
News Editor

Jed Smith '88, a venture capitalist who founded the highly successful Web site drugstore.com, has committed to donating $200 for every member of the Class of 2001 who donates at least $20 to the senior class gift, a fundraising program now in its 20th year.

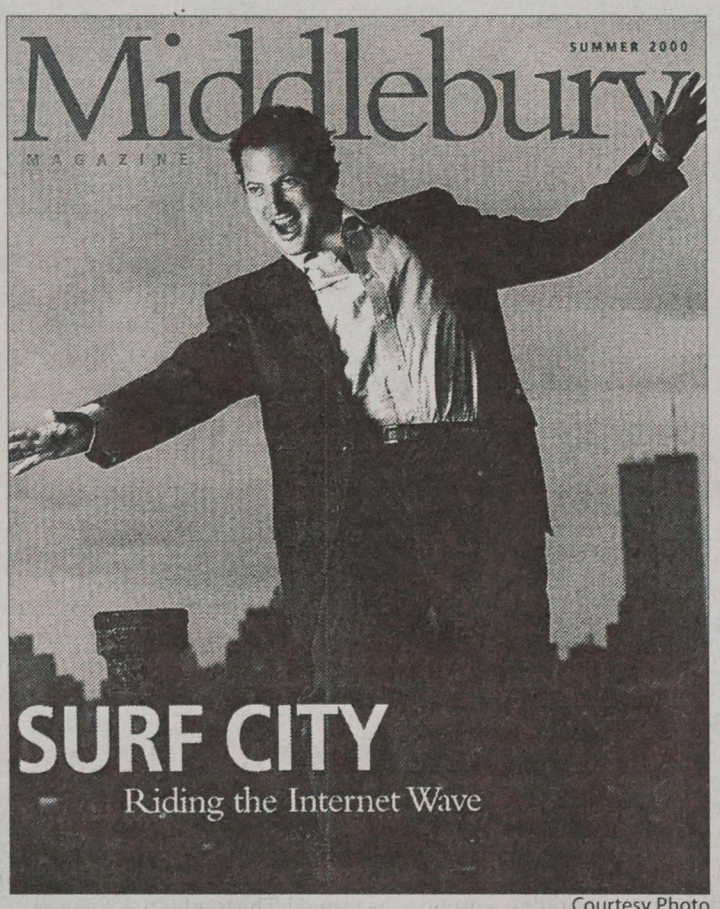
A vote of the senior class earmarked this year's gift for financial aid, following previous years' gifts ranging from the Class of 1997's trail in honor of Colin O'Neill '97 to the Class of 1989's trees that line the walk to Mead Chapel.

In light of Smith's challenge, Assistant Director of Annual Giving Brandon Doyle '98 said that, "Seniors have a great opportunity to give $20 and have the impact of $220."

While the target of $25,000 for a memorial scholarship is significant, the overarching goal of the program is "to instill upon seniors the importance of giving back to Middlebury," Doyle said, noting that the level alumni giving has far-reaching implications for the College.

For example, *U.S. News and World Report*, the magazine best known in higher education for its popular college rankings, takes into account alumni giving.

This year, the periodical named Middlebury the sixth best college in the country, but ranked the College 32nd out of 50 for its alumni giving rate of 47 percent, in contrast to Amherst's 68 percent and William's 60 percent contribution rate.



Courtesy Photo
Jed Smith '88, who has committed to significantly contributing to the senior class gift, graces the cover of the Middlebury Magazine.

Success and Philanthropy: Smith's Story

Smith, in an interview from his car phone as he navigated the hilly streets of San Francisco, remarked that after graduation from Middlebury he was "trying to decide between public service or private enterprise."

"My family is divided 50/50 between entrepreneurs and left-wing activists," he said.

He attended Harvard Business School and took the plunge into the high-tech economy, founding and managing Cybersmith, a retail store chain featuring Internet breakthroughs and multimedia software, after stints as the eastern district manager for the Oracle Corporation and sales director for Tribe Computer Works.

Perhaps his crowning achievement was drugstore.com, an online vendor of products one would expect to find at a retail pharmacy.

As vice president of Strategic Partnerships, Smith forged key alliances with Yahoo, Amazon, Excite and Rite Aid, a principal facet of the firm's business model.

He is now a partner in Catamount Ventures, a firm that invests in early stage companies in the information technology sector, according to their Web site.

A certain presence in high-tech ventures, Smith has been mentioned as a "web visionary" by MSNBC, "one to watch" by *The Industry Standard*, and one of the top 40 "most influential people on the Internet in Boston" by the *Improper Bostonian*.

After such success in business, "I am now transitioning to public service activities and thinking about what is important to me," said Smith.

Chief among his concerns is "people's access to opportunity because if they don't have a chance, the system falls apart."

To that end, Smith has established a foundation focused on education non-profit organizations, and has also been instrumental in the development of a new math curriculum in San Francisco city schools as well as contributing to an alternative high school in Boston.

His effort to inspire the senior class to donate to the College's future is therefore the latest in a growing tradition of philanthropy.

Smith recalls Middlebury as an "upbeat, positive place," and he credits the College with imparting to him a "confidence to be able to interact and excel with anybody."

"I learned how to learn," he said. "Things are moving so fast that you have to be nimble. You have to stay on your feet."

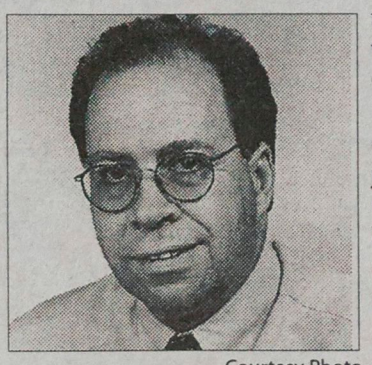
Future Ross Commons faculty head appointed

By Peter Simon
Staff Writer

Thomas Beyer, professor of Russian, has been appointed as the new faculty head of Ross Commons, effective in fall 2001. Beyer is currently on leave in Germany with his wife, Dorothea.

"This is an exciting new challenge for Dorothea and me," said Beyer. "We look forward to the opportunity to extend our Middlebury family contacts."

Beyer has taught at Middlebury for 26 years as a professor of Russian.



Courtesy Photo
Thomas Beyer, professor of Russian and the new faculty head of Ross Commons for fall 2001.

In recent years, he has served as faculty liaison to the office of admission. He has also been a faculty associate of Ross Commons.

Maria Trumpler, the dean of Ross Commons, expressed happiness over Beyer's appointment. "We're very excited to have Tom Beyer as our faculty head," said Trumpler. "He has a very personal way of engaging students in conversation, and is willing to take risks in order to be open with them."

Trumpler has enjoyed working with Beyer before in the Middlebury Coalition Building Institute Workshops and at Posse program retreat, as well as through Beyer's work with Ross Commons.

Beyer is equally enthusiastic about joining Ross Commons. "I have been a faculty associate of Ross for the past few years and enjoyed the events and opportunities for interaction with students, staff and faculty colleagues," said Beyer. There is an energy among the people and an enthusiasm about the Commons that makes me want to be a part of it."

According to Beyer, his work in the admissions office made him even more enthusiastic about working with Middlebury students. "My work in the admissions process has

(see New, page 4)

Thin envelopes abound in early decision process

By Devin Zatorski
News Editor

Last Wednesday, Director of Admissions John Hanson and the Middlebury College admissions team sat pondering the fate of a few remaining early decision (ED) candidates, "trimming" the numbers because of increased competition that grows stiffer by the year.

Hanson said this last-minute re-reviewing of early applications has become typical as the College continues to receive far more applications from qualified candidates than it can possibly admit.

This year's early decision applicant pool of 821 topped last year's record of 795 for both rounds one and two of the early decision process, an overall 3.3 percent increase. And as the volume of applications rises, so do rejections.

"We are denying more and more," said Hanson, "out of kindness, not to string them along." While the College continues to defer decisions on hundreds of students, the denial rate for early decision round one has increased from 5 percent just two years ago to 14 percent this year.

> **The acid test for us is to look at how many deferred students [from the early decision pool] do we end up taking in regular decision as long as we still see them as attractive.**
>
> **—John Hanson, director of admissions**

Data on round two of early decision was not available as of press time yesterday.

The trend is one that spans the nation, and was the focus of a Jan. 22 article in *U.S. News and World Report* which cited Middlebury and Babson College in Massachusetts, whose ED denial rate climbed from 8 percent last year to 20 percent, as examples of the heightened competition.

What *U.S. News* calls a "demographic bulge," though, also has its advantages for admissions officers like Hanson.

The increase in ED applications, Hanson suggested, "represents that more and more of the students we would be looking to admit in the regular round are applying early."

By enrolling more students through the early decision process, the College secures from them a firm commitment to attend, eliminating the threat of desirable candidates later being wooed away by other schools.

Hanson estimated that 40 percent of the Class of 2005 has already been filled with early decision applicants, leaving more than 5000 regular decision candidates vying for the remaining 60 percent of slots.

> **Most secondary school counselors would tell you that Middlebury is quite conservative in whether it encourages students to apply early because the College wants to ensure that students have ample time to make the right choice.**
>
> **—John Hanson**

"The acid test for us is to look at how many deferred students [from the early decision pool] do we end up taking in regular decision as long as we still see them as attractive," said Hanson.

He added that figure usually hovers between 50 and 55 students. "That means we are not over admitting in early decision," he concludes.

In fact, Harvard University last year filled more than half of its first-year class from the early decision process, and Connecticut College accepted 202 of its 361 early applicants, leaving 4,080 regular applicants to compete for the remaining 248 spaces.

A recent press release from the Williams College admissions office reported 191 early acceptances from a record pool of 458 in the first round, up 14 percent from last year.

Richard Nesbitt, William's acting director of admissions, said, "We're particularly happy with the number of students of color already in the Class of 2005 since historically those students tended not to apply for early decision."

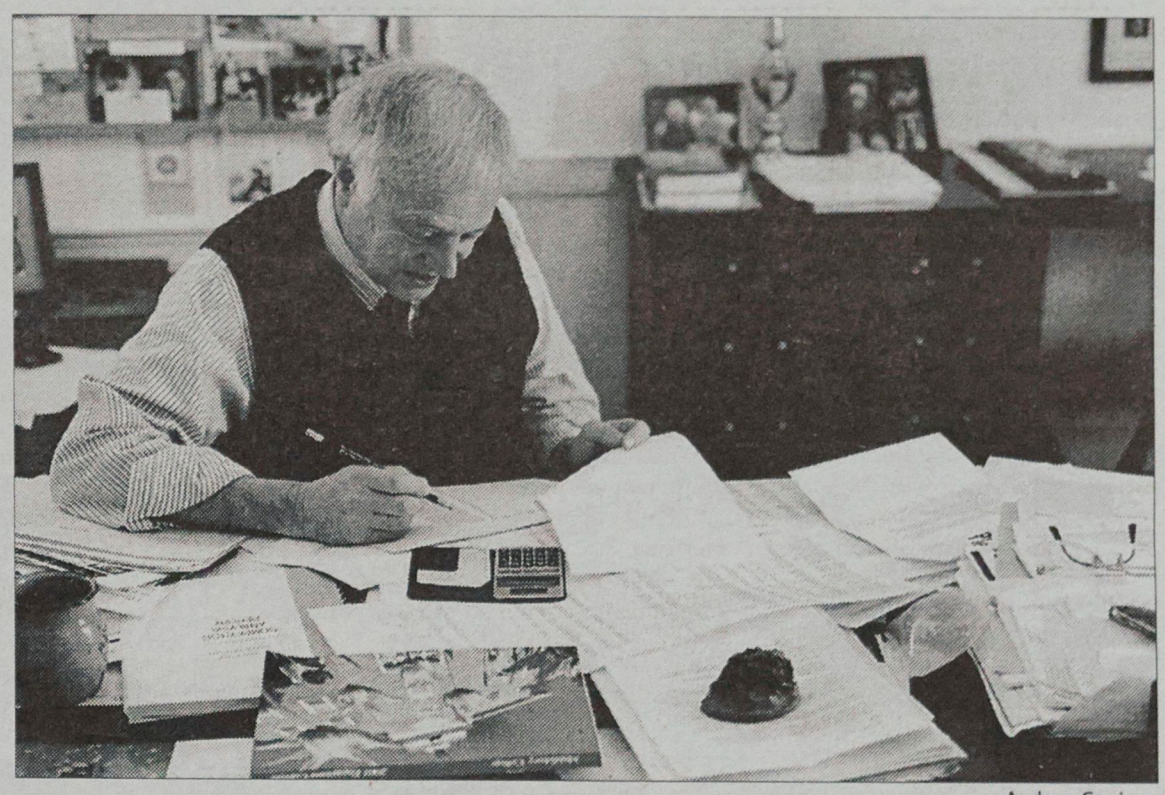
Among the 191 acceptances are seven African Americans, 10 Asian Americans and 16 Latinos, according to the Williams' statement.

"I think this is a generic trend that both Middlebury and Williams benefit from," said Hanson. "Anecdotally, more acceptances have been to minorities [than before]," but he went on to say that the increase is too small to be of much statistical significance.

Hanson emphasized that "if there is any student we want, we are happy to take them early, which is an advantage for students who want to see it as an advantage."

However, Hanson noted that, "Most secondary school counselors would tell you that Middlebury is quite conservative in whether it encourages students to apply early" because the College wants to ensure that students have ample time to make the right choice.

As long as the College has the time and organizational capacity to make decisions early, Hanson said, it will continue to do so. But he's "quite happy to live with the regular decision pool" as well.



Andrew Corrigan
Director of Admissions John Hanson carefully examines multitiudes of applications for the class of 2005.

TIPS promotes alcohol accountability

By Lindsay Frost
Staff Writer

As of Feb. 5, 2001, all students registering parties on the Middlebury College campus are required to be certified in the Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) program. The Center for Campus Activities and Leadership (C-CAL) has offered several TIPS training sessions already this fall and Winter Term and will continue to offer the sessions each month during the spring semester.

The TIPS program educates participants about alcohol and serving alcohol and provides them with the skills and information necessary to intervene in situations where alcohol is being abused. The College's Community Council made the decision to require TIPS training for party hosts last fall.

> **It's nice having a student do [the training]. The whole idea of TIPS is that you [as a student] are in a position to do something about problems rather than an authority figure.**
>
> **—Peter Jacoby '01**

"[TIPS training] is an interesting way of looking at alcohol," said C-CAL Director Doug Adams. "It offers a very practical look at alcohol and what it does to people."

According to Adams, 47 students participated in the two three-hour training sessions offered during the fall and the five offered during Winter Term. In addition, 21 faculty and staff members, including campus security officers, also participated in the sessions.

Although TIPS certification will now be required in order to register a party anywhere on campus, Adams said that he hadn't seen "an overwhelming response" from students so far. He added that he believed social houses and other student organizations were actively encouraging their leaders and members to be certified but individual party hosts on campus were not responding.

TIPS training is free to individual students. For students who are training as members of a student organization, C-CAL will pay the $12.50 fee for one member of the group to be trained. The fees for the other students in the organization must come from the organization's budget. Certification in the TIPS program lasts three years.

The TIPS program offered by the College is titled "TIPS for the University" and is specifically designed for college students. Adams said that the TIPS program was chosen both because it focuses on college students and because the program is non-judgmental and doesn't "preach" to students about alcohol.

The TIPS program is also not new to the College since several of the social houses have been participating in the program and requiring certification for social chairs and pledge classes for the past few years. The TIPS program is also used and required at many other colleges and universities across the country, including institutions similar to Middlebury. Adams said approximately 30,000 students are TIPS certified at over 300 institutions.

The TIPS training sessions are led by certified TIPS trainers. Currently Adams, Assistant Director of C-CAL Megan Smith, McCullough Activities Assistant Kevin Peckham and Peter Jacoby '01 are the trainers on campus. Lisa Bennett '02 is also a certified trainer but is currently studying abroad.

Jacoby, who volunteered to become a trainer as a representative from the Inter-House Council (IHC), said he thought it was important to have student trainers because they can relate to the students and the situations they might experience.

"It's nice having a student do [the training]," he said. "The whole idea of TIPS is that you [as a student] are in a position to do something about problems rather than an authority figure."

According to Adams, the sessions are divided into three sections. During the first section, which consists of information exchange about alcohol, participants watch a video about alcohol and its effects. The TIPS trainer then talks specifically about laws concerning alcohol in the state of Vermont as well as the College's regulations concerning alcohol.

The second section consists of a video of a series of several vignettes designed to portray different scenarios one might encounter in a party situation. Participants learn behavioral cues to tell if someone is intoxicated and learn how to provide a safe environment for drinking.

In the third section, participants engage in role-playing and practicing the techniques they have learned. The session ends with a short quiz that Jacoby called "simple and straightforward."

Adams said that so far no participant at Middlebury has failed the test.

"It's a lot of common sense, nothing any of us haven't heard before," said Jacoby, "but it's not a bad idea to have common sense repeated to you."

"It's a great life skill," said Adams, "and most of it's based on people skills you already have."

TIPS training sessions will be offered each month for the rest of the year. The next session will be held on Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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Global computer virus derails server

By Devin Zatorski
News Editor

When Associate Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette received an e-mail attachment entitled "Anna Kournikova," he thought, "it couldn't be anything but benign."

Little did he know that opening it would contribute to touching off the virus' mass distribution on campus, causing Middlebury to feel the effects of this so-called worm that infected machines across the continent and across the globe.

Director of Information Technology Services (ITS) Outreach and Customer Service Mary Backus said that the virus replicates once the attachment is opened in Microsoft Outlook and then sends a copy of itself to everyone on the distribution list.

Once active on the Middlebury campus, the virus overwhelmed the servers, forcing ITS to shut them down Monday afternoon.

"Norton Antivirus didn't have a definition to stop it" from continuing to spread, said Backus.

Yesterday Biette wrote an e-mail to all faculty and staff apologizing for mishap and encouraging them to learn from his experience.

He explained that he had received an e-mail on Monday asking for budget adjustment for the Ross Commons project.

When an e-mail from kitchen equipment manufacturer Cleveland Range appeared in his inbox later that day, he was impressed with their "timely" response.

"Not being up on pop culture," Biette wrote, "I thought [the attachment] was some cut sheets of equipment and specifications from one of their sales people, Anna Kournikova."

"As my computer went nuts sending e-mail to everyone, I turned off Outlook, ran Norton Antivirus, and panicked!" he continued. "I then called the emergency line at the Helpdesk who informed me that I had let Pandora out of her box."

Biette extended apologies to all and emphasized the importance of learning from mistakes and heeding the warnings about opening unknown attachments.

According to Backus, the Helpdesk fielded hundreds of calls from students, faculty and staff about the virus, but she could not estimate how many machines on campus were infected.

She mentioned that this virus is particularly effective because it is sent by people whose names you likely recognize, creating a false sense of trust and security.

ITS responded promptly to the situation, sending out e-mails with links to the latest Norton Antivirus software and leaving voice mail updates.

Meanwhile, the virus, which CNN described as one that "masquerades as an image of a sexy Russian tennis star," spread through the United States and Europe, but most of the Asian continent was unaffected.

Security experts worldwide are calling the Anna Kournikova virus the most damaging since Love Bug, which wrecked havoc to the tune of tens of millions of dollars after its release from the Philippines last May.

Similar to the Kournikova virus, Love Bug spread rapidly and caused damage primarily by crashing e-mail servers.

Experts warn that the Kournikova virus must be completely purged from the system or the virus will connect to Dynabyte, a Dutch Web site, on Jan. 26 of every year.

New position will greet Beyer on return to Midd

(continued from page 2)

shown me just how special Middlebury students are," said Beyer. We hope to create a community and an atmosphere in which everyone feels 'at home' and 'welcome at the table.'"

Beyer has three daughters, one of whom is a Middlebury graduate, and another, Stefanie Beyer is a junior at the College.

As a Russian professor who has studied Germany, Beyer is a natural fit for Ross Commons, which has the College's Russian House and German House.

Beyer is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead in his new position. "The commons system has come a long way in a short period of time," said Beyer.

"But there is still work to be done in creating a commons where we all learn from each other even as we each develop our own human potential."

Midd Briefs

By Devin Zatorski and Ashley Elpern
News Editors

Two grants awarded for student research

Professor of Biology Grace Spatafora has announced that Ben Freeman '01 has received a grant from the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society for his senior thesis project entitled, "Characterization of a putative metal ion transport locus in Streptococcus mutans." Freeman's work will examine whether manganese plays a role in the development of dental cavities induced by S. mutans.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology Joshua Kavaler has announced that Devin Zarkowsky '02 has received a grant from the FRAXA Research Foundation to study the importance of the Fragile X Syndrome gene in the wound healing process. Zarkowsky will be studying cell growth rates among fibroblasts from normal mice and transgenic mice missing the Fragile X gene.

Williams to lecture on gender, work and family conflict

Joan Williams, professor of law and director of American University School of Law's Gender, Work and Family Project will deliver a lecture entitled, "Unbending Gender: Why Work and Family Conflict and What to Do About It" in the Robert A. Jones Seminar Room in the Geonomics House on March 1 at 4.30 p.m. Williams authored a 1999 book by the same title.

The talk is free and open to the public.According to a press release, Williams will discuss her work, which examines social questions ranging from the conflicting values of family life and work to the greater amount of strain placed on women at home and work.

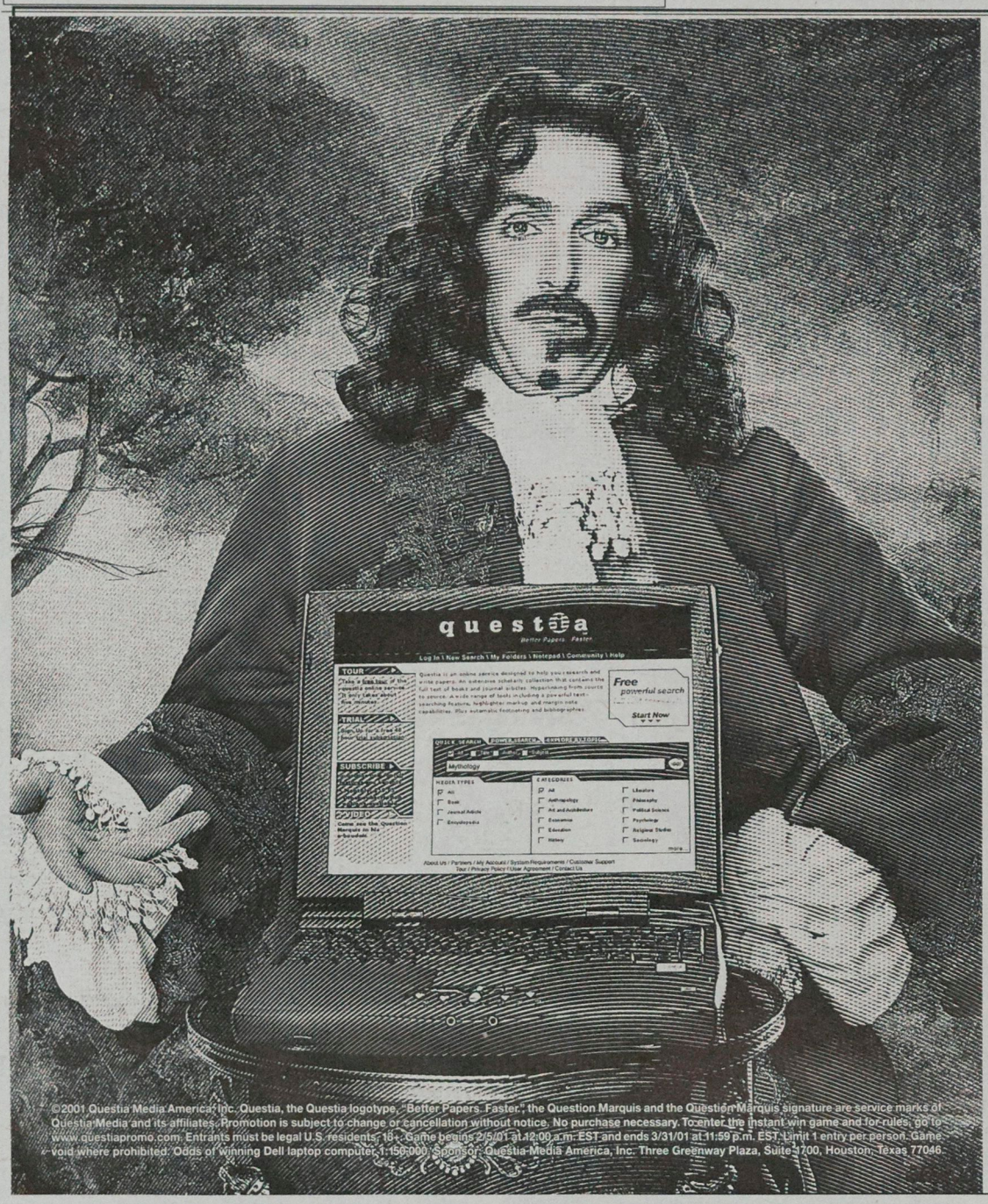
Indian earthquake relief drive yields $2300

Syed Masood '01 and Vishnu Vasudev '01 spearheaded a relief effort to aid earthquake victims in India, collecting donations from students, staff and faculty. The fund drive represented the collective efforts of the South Asian Club, which aims to bring the culture of the Indian subcontinent to campus, and Unicef, a recently formed club still awaiting the final nod from the administration.

Members manned collection tables at Proctor and The Grille the week before Feb Break, which yielded $2300 on Monday.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect, but we are very happy with what we've ended up with," said Vasudev. "We encouraged people to contribute what ever they had, even their spare change we even got a check for $500."

He said that many students were forthcoming not only with money but also with their time in volunteering to man the booth.



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Merit-based pay rewards dedication to sustained employment

(continued from page 1)

tions and in the past worked many hours without adequate pay.

With the low benchmark for wages, the majority of student employees were not earning the amount of money that they could if they worked at other colleges or in the community. Johns said this created a general apathy among students, resulting in many empty positions or students now fulfilling the requirements of their jobs.

A harmony of efforts

Johns and the SGA began work on the wage scale when classes commenced in the fall. "I first talked with [Director of Service Learning and Student Employment] Tiffany Sargent who was in charge of student wages," said Johns.

Thomas Corbin, director of Human Resources and assistant treasurer of the College, who organized the revision of staff wages in the 1990s, added knowledge of the fiscal policies of employment.

The Office of Service Learning and Student Employment, in conjunction with the Human Resources Department, has worked since 1991 to assure that all staff jobs are not just on par with other colleges but also with real world markets.

"In the past, we periodically looked at other schools' wages with an eye on the minimum wage," said Corbin. "As wages began to veer away from similar wages outside the College environment, we instituted a benchmark for staff wages."

Instead of internally comparing College staff positions to create a wage system, Corbin and his associates created an external comparison system. Looking at job markets for similar staff positions at 21 other colleges, as well as in the domestic work force, the committee set an average for each level of expertise.

By setting staff wages to an outside market, the system can be flexible and adjust to changes that occur each year to ensure that staff wages are an accurate representation of what their position is worth.

The new student wage scale is based upon the staff system. Because of the system of averages involved, the benchmark for wages will not move quickly, ensuring that overall payment to student workers will not soar.

Sargent focused on the flexibility of the wage system as an important change. Previously, student wages were on a fixed rate and students performing advanced jobs, such as computer programming, could not receive adequate pay for their duties.

"With student jobs tied to the fluctuating wage scale for staff, the ceiling for student pay has been eliminated," said Sargent. "This now recognizes important positions that were not created in the past because our office knew we could not pay students enough to take on such complicated tasks."

By readjusting student wages each year to match a percentage of staff wages, reassessing student employment no longer has to occur.

"Before the increase went into effect, the Office of Service Learning and Student Employment went through many proposal stages each year to change student wages," said Sargent. "Now everything is set to adjust automatically if the market rate for staff wages shifts."

One important component of the new scale was to compile job descriptions for each student job on campus. Once organized, these descriptions were compared to similar staff positions to see what rate a certain job would start out at.

> **The new system allows students to be paid for their expertise in their fields and with the merit system of yearly pay raises, students will be willing to commit to a job.**
>
> **—Ben Johns '01, SGA president**

"Student employment differs from staff employment, because many times a position is with the person for the job in mind," said Corbin. "The plan now will allow us to create generic jobs with standard practices, allowing those hiring student workers to know exactly what they need."

Students reap the benefits

Both Corbin and Johns see many positive benefits of the new wage scale and job descriptions for students, faculty and staff. As students make more money, they will have an added incentive to work, said Johns.

"The new system allows students to be paid for their expertise in their field and with the merit system of yearly pay raises, students will be willing to commit to a job," said Johns.

> **With student jobs tied to the fluctuating wage scale for staff, the ceiling for student pay has been eliminated.**
>
> **—Tiffany Sargent, director of service learning and student employment**

Corbin said that the detailed job descriptions would serve the College in three ways. They will first benefit student workers, who will have a comprehensive description of their job to put on their resumes, while jobs in the past had few set guidelines and requirements.

Ideally, the increase in student wages will allow the administration to decrease its hiring of permanent staff to make up for the prior lack of staff when students felt they were not paid enough to do a job. "It is more expensive to hire outside of the College," said Corbin. "The College then has to pay the staff higher wages, as well as Medicare, Social Security and health benefits."

Corbin noted that student employment is flexible, as it is reassessed every semester. This allows job to fluctuate where they are needed. If the administration has to hire staff to fill empty student positions, the job market cannot fluctuate as much "because the College does not like to lay-off its workers," said Corbin.

With an increase in students applying for positions, Corbin said the College is now in the position of choosing from a highly competitive pool of applicants. This assures that the students are dedicated to their work and sincerely want to be employed.

Teamwork on all fronts

The synthesis of the new wage scale could not have occurred without the coordination of the SGA, Student Employment and Human Resources. Each group brought its knowledge and understanding of its aspect of student employment to the discussions that began in late August.

Johns emphasizes Sargent and Corbin's work as crucial for success. "Tom was very helpful in explaining what were viable options for wage rates and the way to create the scale due to his experience with the staff wage scale." He also credits Charlene Bergland, the assistant director of service learning and student education, and Robert Huth, the college treasurer and vice president for administration, as giving needed perspective in the process.

Sargent's background in dealing with all aspects of student employment was beneficial in looking at how the issue has been dealt with in the past and creating solutions to ensure success. Others in her office spent a great deal of time working on the new Web descriptions of the wage scale.

She noted the work of Giorgi Arishidze '04 in designing the new Web page, Pamela Norton, the assistant to the director at the assistant treasurer's office, for inputting the job descriptions into the system and Bergland's office staff's compilation of the descriptions.

David Cohen '01 and SGA Chief of Staff Phil Wood-Smith '01, members of Johns' presidential cabinet worked alongside Johns to research the wage rates at other colleges across the nation. "We had to ask ourselves if we should adapt one of their systems or develop our own," said Johns. "Ideally, we wanted to create a symbol for other schools with the base of the market."

Johns sees the new system as an important step for the SGA. "It was something that many people had tried in the past and that a majority of students believed could not happen," he said. "The implementation of the scale shows the impact of everyone working together and what can occur if you put in the necessary time and commitment to make a change and see things through."

Setting an example

The new wage scale will move the College to the forefront of student employment. Originally the College's wage system was similar to those used at other schools, said Corbin. "Now, we have significantly higher wages that the schools that we compared our scale too," he said.

Other colleges are beginning to realize the College's initiative. "The SGA presidents of Amherst and Williams have contacted me about our wage scale," said Johns. "I see Middlebury as setting the benchmark for other schools."

Carmen Tedesco '01 had been a strong critic of the old wage scale, especially after spending a summer working as a tour guide in admissions. "I felt like I was not being paid and respected for the amount of work I was putting into my job," said Tedesco. She also saw the old scale as stagnant and criticized it for not adjusting to keep up with inflation.

After looking at the new wage scale information on the Office of Service Learning and Student Learning Web site, Tedesco commented on the changes. "I really liked the job descriptions," she said. "It gives one exactly what an employee does in each job."

In regards to the pay increases, Tedesco says she feels there was an improvement.

"The amount of money paid for the summer tour guide ($8.60) is now worth the work," she said. She pointed to the shifting wage scale as a good way to keep up with inflation and also applauded the merit wage increases. "The yearly raises take into account the experience that workers bring to their jobs."

CSO

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WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, February 21, 5:00, CSO Library

Career Exploration/Assessments

- You need to know yourself to market yourself!

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00, CSO Library

Practice Interview Evening with Alumni

- Sign up for a slot on MoJo by February 16

Wednesday, February 28, 5:00, CSO Library

Using Internet Resources in Your Career Search

- An overview of sites to help with your research

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Attn: Minority College Juniors

The College Fund - Coca-Cola Corp. Intern Program

- $5-10k Scholarship, February 16 app. deadline
- www.coca-colaoncampus.com or 800-331-2244

Attn: Emerging Social Justice Leaders

Civil Rights Summer Program for rising 2nd & 3rd years

- Stipend + Scholarship, housing + transportation
- DemocracyProject@aol.com

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~ See MoJo for details ~

DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Monday, February 19, 4:30, Geonomics

"Life is a Presentation: Communicating in Person, on Paper, and Online" with Raleigh Mayer '82

- Learn about the public relations industry and the fine art of effective communication!

Tuesday, February 27

- PIRG (Pub. Interest Research Grp.), 7:30, BIH 438
- Monterey Institute of Int'l Studies (Grad. Sch. of Translation & Interpretation), 7:30, BIH 220

Wednesday, February 28, 7:30, BIH 219

- Bloomberg Financial Markets
  (A leader in technology, multimedia & communication)

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

American Hiking Society's publication, HELPING OUT IN THE OUTDOORS, is now an ON-LINE directory!

- Get the HOO at www.americanhiking.org

SGA leaders brace for new semester's coming challenges

(continued from page 1)
portant accomplishments for the SGA as a whole.

The accomplishments also go hand-in-hand with what Johns called an "increased respect" for the SGA and the presidential Cabinet among many members of the administration. This is particularly important for the senior members of the SGA who must work closely with administrators ranging from Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson to Middlebury President John McCardell.

Overarching cabinet issues

"The issues we [the Cabinet] tackle are larger," Johns said. "They are so big, they take a lot longer. This requires a lot of persuasion from a student's perspective" he mentioned, referring to the many times he has had to convince trustees and administrators alike about the force of his convictions.

Despite the difficulties, Johns said that things seem to be working favorably. More respect has "propelled us [the Cabinet and student senate] to do a lot of bigger things."

Johns has also tried to make himself available to members of the College student community, sitting periodically with students during mealtimes or "getting involved with different groups" like the International Students Organization (ISO).

Johns mentioned that his was "a people's approach" and wanted the SGA not to be viewed or treated as a body separate from the rest of the student body, something he said typified the organization during the 1999-2000 academic year.

This is an obstacle all politicians must face, regardless of their stature or experience – perhaps more so on college campuses where apathy is sometimes more rampant than activism. But Johns maintained that both he and student representatives remain motivated to fulfill the tasks they set for themselves at the beginning of the year.

"I'd say about three-fourths of the individuals [in the student senate] are happy. The veterans from last year who were more used to the formality like what they're seeing; others are struggling with it. I try to be supportive, making sure they stay involved," Johns said.

SGA accomplishments

What are some of the milestones Johns has made since being elected last April? Perhaps best known to students is the modification of the wage scale implemented earlier this month. For Johns, this represents a major victory as an increase of student wages is something many former SGA presidents had put on their platforms "during the last four years."

Before talking with key members of the administration last spring, Johns was told by student government veterans that wages were a "dead issue" and not worth the struggle.

But Johns persisted. "It was a matter of doing our homework and asking questions. Why does it [an increase in student wages] benefit the faculty? Why does it benefit the administration? There were roadblocks put up, but it still got accomplished," Johns said.

One key stumbling block was convincing the Middlebury Board of Trustees, something Johns was working on until January. Some trustees were concerned that the costs of implementing the wage changes would be too great, but Johns managed to allay their fears during multiple meetings with the group.

Plans for the spring

High on Johns' list of endeavors for the spring are proposing a trial period for implementing more self-scheduled exams and increasing the drop/add period from five weeks to nine.

Speaking of the latter, Johns said that he would be speaking in front of both the Faculty Council and the Educational Affairs Committee – consisting of students and faculty members – within the next few weeks.

After appearing in front of these groups, Johns hoped to present his self-scheduled exams proposal at an all-faculty meeting scheduled for March 12.

"We've laid the groundwork [for the trial period]," Johns said, going on to mention that he had spoken at length to "those professors most adamantly against" his proposal. Since his proposal calls for a trial period instead of an absolute mandate to implement self-scheduled exams, however, Johns voiced his confidence that faculty members would support his plan.

On the issue of extending the drop/add period for classes, Johns reiterated the fact that "students making an assessment of their courses need to have an adequate amount of graded work back" before they decide to replace one class with another.

As most midterms are returned within nine weeks after the start of a new semester, Johns said that the time was sufficient. He did, however, have to work hard to convince faculty members that his plan called for too much time.

"Students don't want to drop class," the president went on to mention. "It's only those who really need or want to that do." Recently returned from an internship with his state representative in Boston's State House, Student Co-Chair of Community Council Brian Elworthy is equally excited about the upcoming semester and the accomplishments made in the one just past.

Community Council agenda

Elworthy mentioned in an interview yesterday that he felt his greatest accomplishment was simply gaining a "better understanding" of the Community Council. This improved knowledge, he went on to mention, has given him a greater idea of what the "Community Council is able to change and not change."

"Personally it's been a really good experience," Elworthy said. "When I make a promise I'm sure to keep it."

One key issue on Elworthy's list for last fall was ensuring that the Council remained proactive, something it has periodically been charged as not being during previous administrations.

A large portion of remaining proactive entailed carrying out one of the key platforms of Elworthy's campaign last spring. This entailed creating a safer and socially more responsible atmosphere for drinking on campus.

While Elworthy admitted that such a platform might have given him the reputation of being the "beer and television guy," he maintained that he was working for the good of the student body. Since his election last April, has been pivotal in integrating the Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) program into the College's alcohol and party policies.

TIPS trains students how to react when they see someone is at risk from consuming too much alcohol, and it was implemented formally on Feb. 5.

Eric Skovsted

Entering the spring semester with full agendas, Ben Johns(l.) and Brian Elworthy (r.) said they feel confident in their abilities to carry out their campaign promises and to heighten interaction between the SGA and students.

High on Johns' list of endeavors for the spring are proposing a trial period for implementing more self-scheduled exams and increasing the add/drop period from five weeks to nine.

Loosening the alcohol policy

In addition to this, Elworthy and the Community Council were also successful in extending the number of hours a party can be held, pushing the deadline to 2 a.m. from 1 a.m.

He has also worked to increase the number of beer kegs at social house parties to five, provided the last one be "tapped" or opened by 1 a.m. Having more kegs, however, means hard liquor will not be allowed at all social parties except those held at The Mill and "closed" or private functions. Both of these reforms will be established on a trial basis beginning immediately.

Rather than encourage drinking, Elworthy maintained that having more kegs will act instead as a "deterrent" to the unsafe binge drinking that generally goes on behind closed dorm room doors. Convincing administration members of this, however, proved a formidable task, and Elworthy said he worked hard to make sure that the "Inter-house Council and College deans were on the same page" in regards to the alteration of these aspects of Middlebury policy.

Elworthy also had to work with Director of Security Lisa Boudah and the College's team of lawyers to re-examine Vermont law that stipulates all public spaces need to be closed by 1 a.m., a potential "gray area" for Middlebury, as it is a private institution. Boudah, Elworthy and College lawyers were able to work beyond this to ensure this particular policy could be implemented expeditiously and without legal repercussions.

If the plan proves successful, Elworthy said he hopes to extend the changes to "all social spaces."

Elworthy's emphasis on re-examining the College's alcohol policy is an important aspect of the platform that brought him to office a year ago. "Middlebury's alcohol policy is always changing," Elworthy said. "I see [my changes] as a way to curtail alcohol abuse by placing more responsibility on students."

With the rigors of a new semester already bearing down on Elworthy and Johns alike, it will be an even more formidable task to devote time to pushing student interests with school administrators.

The projects remaining to be completed reveal a lengthy list, but one both student government leaders feel ready to tackle.

Campus Security Log

The Department of Public Saftey responded to the following incident reports:

01/29/01 Responded to a report of vandalism in Stewart.
01/29/01 Received a report of a stolen bicycle from Hepburn.
01/30/01 Responded to a report of a broken window in the Field House.
02/01/01 Received a report of a stolen lens from a print enlarging machine from the Forest Darkroom.
02/02/01 Received a report of a stolen jacket from the Voter computer room.
02/03/01 Received a report of vandalism to a vehicle outside of Perkins House.
02/03/01 Confiscated an illegal keg from Palmer House.
02/04/01 Responded to a report of an illegal party in Hepburn.
02/05/01 Responded to a medical emergency at the Field House.
02/11/01 Confiscated an illegal keg from Prescott House.
02/11/01 Responded to a report of vandalism in Gifford Lounge.
02/11/01 Received a report of a stolen wallet from Chateau.
02/12/01 Received a report of a stolen CD Player from Bicentennial Hall.

If you have any information on the above incidents, please contact the Department of Public Saftey at extensions 5911 or 5133.

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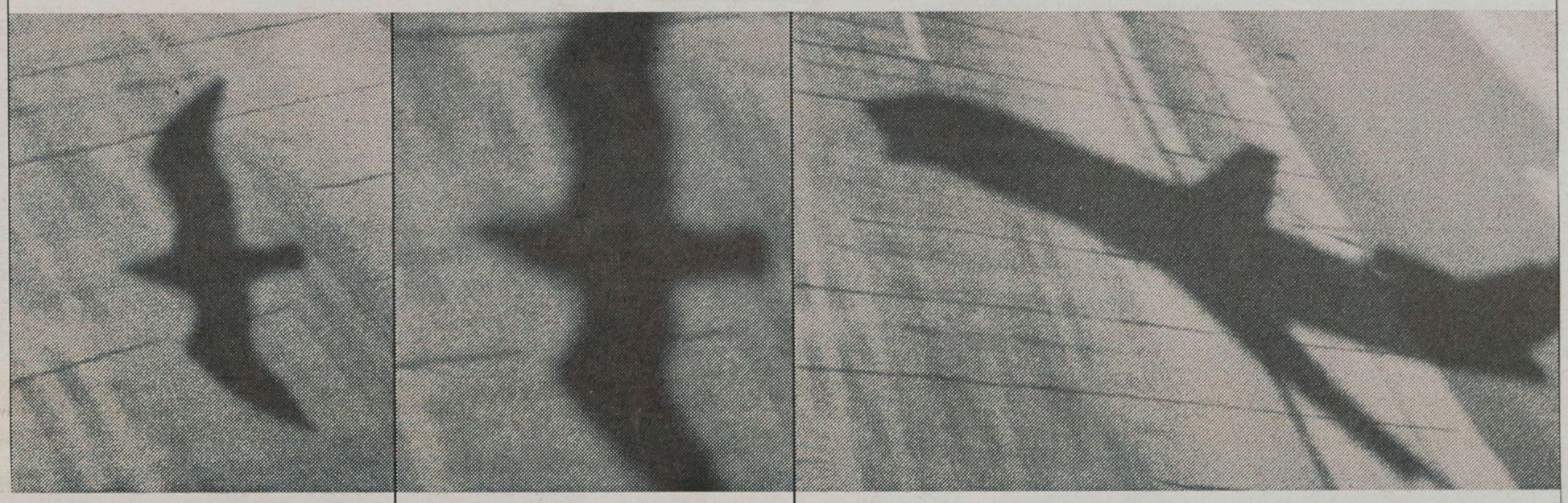

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Editorial

Tips for TIPS

On Feb. 5 it became mandatory for any student registering a party on campus to participate in an alcohol-related workshop called "Training for Intervention Procedures" (TIPS). The training, which lasts for several hours, covers information such as determining whether a person is intoxicated and intervening in the case of possible alcohol-induced conflict. Led by members of the Center for Campus Activities and TIPS certified students, the workshop is intended to educate students in managing safe and responsible social events.

TIPS, a nationally-certified program, serves several important purposes at the College; educating students, allowing for more student responsibility and covering the College in the event of any legal actions. However, there remains a need for much improvement in all the goals to which TIPS caters in order to make the endeavor completely successful.

Complaints among TIPS participants have not been that the program was unnecessary, but that the time could have been used more wisely and been filled with more comprehensive material. A fear among students is that a fellow party-goer may have a serious problem that necessitates medical attention. It is common for a college student to be able to recognize when a fellow student is intoxicated; however, it is highly intimidating to consider aiding a student in the case of a medical emergency. While the course material should not substitute for the need to call a medical professional, it should be directed to give the student a higher sense of confidence in handling such an emergency. The reaction to the course has been that students want more details instead of a rehashing of the basics – making their attendance much more worth their while.

TIPS is a huge step in the right direction in terms of student-College alcohol policy relations. Not only does the program place more responsibility and accountability in the students but it also demonstrates that the College is willing to trust the student body to self-regulate itself. However, by establishing this precedence, both sides of the spectrum have a lot more work to do to take advantage of the possibilities offered.

The College needs to treat TIPS as more than just a requirement or liability coverage and, instead, aggressively advertise the importance of the information relayed in the workshop. Up until now, TIPS appears to the students as a mandatory burden creating an obstacle for party-throwing. To alleviate this perception the College should more publicize the benefits of TIPS. There are many rules and regulations about which students are wholly unaware. While many of these rules are covered in the class, students who have participated in TIPS have expressed the desire to have known about them prior to the program. If students understand that there are many College and state laws that could effect their friends and themselves, they would perhaps be more interested in voluntarily enrolling in TIPS for their own self-knowledge. If the College starts advertising TIPS through approaching the medical benefits, or by more openly explaining some often unknown or misunderstood rules, then students may be more eager to educate themselves on the issues, rather than seeing the workshop as an unnecessary burden.

For the students, TIPS is an opportunity to prove accountability to the College. By providing the workshop and publicizing and informing on rules and regulations, the College is clearly delineating the boundaries for social drinking. In turn, the students should attend the workshops, follow the rules and have fun responsibly. The outcome would be a more student-friendly alcohol policy and a more pleasant social atmosphere. If the students know and understand the rules, feel more comfortable with medial emergencies and look out for each other in a responsible manner there would definitely be less of a need for heavy policing from security. The final results could benefit everyone.

The Middlebury Campus

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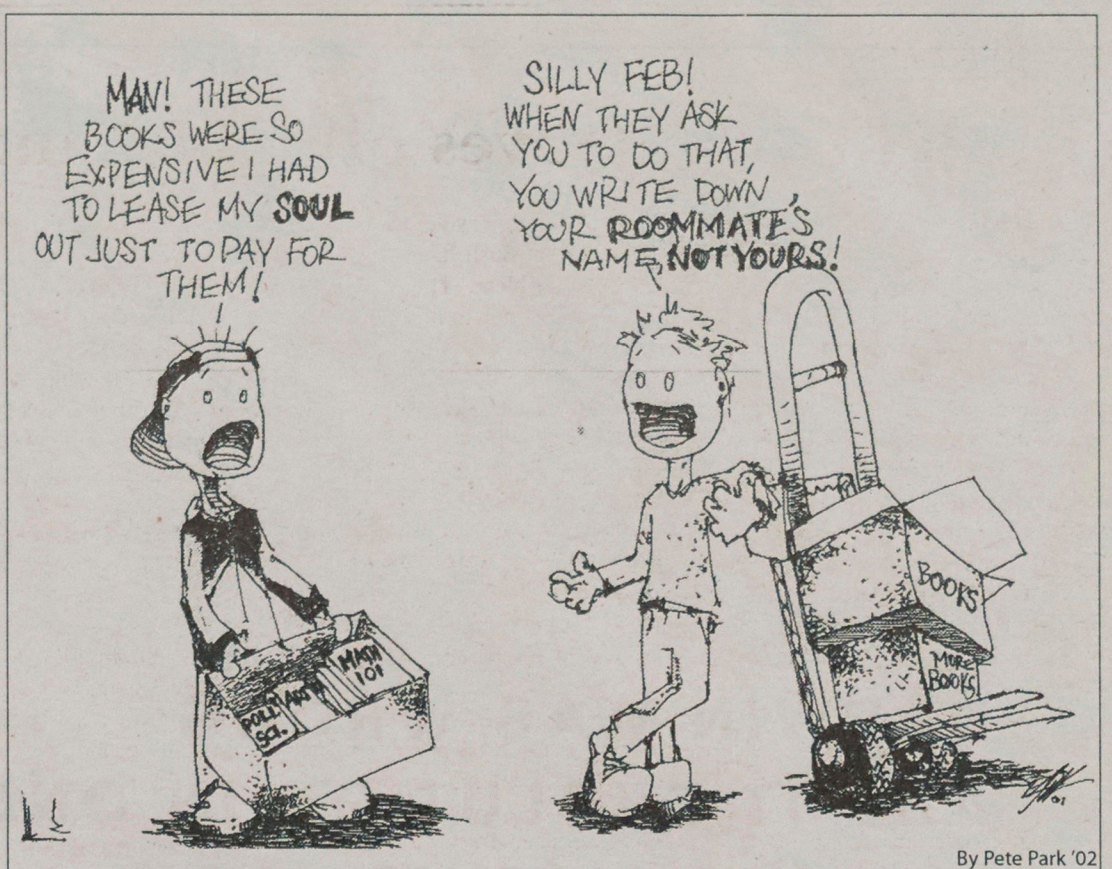
MAN! THESE BOOKS WERE SO EXPENSIVE I HAD TO LEASE MY SOUL OUT JUST TO PAY FOR THEM!
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SILLY FEB! WHEN THEY ASK YOU TO DO THAT, YOU WRITE DOWN YOUR ROOMMATE'S NAME, NOT YOURS!
BOOKS
MORE BOOKS

By Pete Park '02

Todd Metter '04-

Cupid's arrow lands off target

Well, it's that time of year again—time to go back to class and learn things and miss meals and lose sleep and watch The College Store, once again, rob you blind. You wouldn't believe how much I had to pay for just one class! Well, actually, you probably would, since you shop there too (unless you've got a connection with that 48-year-old call girl—did anyone else see that?)...but that's not newsworthy—nor is it new. Besides, the censors would tear my book-prices-are-shockingly-high article to shreds, and I'm not going to give them the satisfaction. Let's talk about another day instead—a day in which Hallmark rakes in more money than all of the campus bookstores nationwide. You know what I'm talking about—Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day, along with several other "holidays" that I will repeatedly make fun of when we get closer to them, is one of those days that no one really has a good valid explanation for. Yes, there is some sort of religious explanation—something to do with a certain St. Valentine dying on or around the 14th of February way back in the day. However, practically nothing is known about this guy, even after thousands of years of research. Apparently, the Vatican didn't want any sketchy unknown saints on its calendar, so in 1969 the Pope booted St. Valentine off the calendar of saints. Oh well. Clearly this religious explanation doesn't have much to do with today's depiction and celebration of Valentine's Day.

Then there's another explanation for the history of Valentine's Day—nature. Apparently a legend has it that birds (this is way back in the day again) began to mate each year on Feb. 14. Hmm. It doesn't sound to me like that's something that Godiva chocolates wants to get out. Luckily for them, it just doesn't sound that plausible either. Clearly this natural explanation doesn't have much to do with today's Valentine's Day either.

A third explanation has to do with a Roman festival. The ancient Romans had an immensely popular festival that was celebrated in February. During the festival, the men would all slip away, go to a nearby cave, and sacrifice two goats and a dog. They would then return to the city to participate in a race. During the race, the men would whip everyone nearby with the goatskins. It was a fertility ritual.

Now, can't you see the clear connection with today's Valentine's Day? If you can't, don't worry. I can't either. According to a man named Schmeck, "Valentine's Day was made up by card companies, florists and chocolate companies to increase their cash flow." Do any of you really argue with this interpretation? Can you? If you already agree, please skip the next paragraph. Or, you can read it anyway, and harass your friends. Or you could harass random people in Proctor. You could also harass people eating those omnipresent little candy hearts. But you get the idea.

Otherwise, consider this: What happens on Valentine's Day that doesn't happen on other days? Let's look at it first from a single person's point of view: nothing. For you, the day is no different from any other, except that everyone else in the United States is receiving expensive or delicious (or both) gifts from his/her significant other, and the media has a great time covering it all. But all you can do is watch. Maybe you buy a carnation, but you get no meaningful response from its recipient. All that you end up accomplishing is helping the crew team go to Miami. Now, let's look at it from a couple's point of view. Let's say that the people in this couple really have feelings for each other; maybe they even love each other. Commercials involving candy, jewelry, people gazing at each other, naked winged babies on greeting cards (but only shown from the back, don't worry), flowers, etc., coerce these people into buying each other expensive gifts. Now, the stated purpose of this exchange is "to show your love" for the other person. But if you love them, why not buy them expensive gifts every day? Why should you only show your love once a year when you can do it year round? The answer is that the majority of people, a few Middlebury students included, would be bankrupted by such a scheme. So that's out. Then why do you do it on Valentine's Day? Assuming that the commercials aren't sending subliminal mes-

(see Saint, page 8)

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 1000 words or less. Submit works to Campus@Middlebury.edu, Drawer 30 or directly to the Opinions Editors.

The Campus retains the right to edit all submissions.

Corrections

The "SGA Briefs" in the Nov. 29 issue, incorrectly identified the Environmental Council's 2000-2001 focus. The Council's focus is reducing greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

In the Nov. 8 article, "Faculty Accepts Proposed Neuroscience Major," Edward Knox, director of European Studies, was incorrectly paraphrased. In his query about the proposed neuroscience major, Knox made no reference to the diffuculty of fulfilling requirements if faculty members are on leave.

The Campus regrets these errors.

-Ben Gore '04-

Bush to drill natives off homeland

How many times have my history teachers told me that the United States was founded on compromise? How many times as an environmentalist have I been told that I need compromise in order to win real political gains? More than I can count.

In my three years of work with the weak-kneed, reform-oriented wing of the environmental movement, I have witnessed many compromises. I have seen freeways bargained down to parkways. I have seen clear cuts reduced to selective cuts. And I have been a party to it all.

It seems that our country is at the beginning of a major crisis. Perhaps cataclysmic is a better word. Of course I'm talking about oil and, no, foreign dependence is not the problem. The problem is that we're running out. Conservative estimates on the peak of world petroleum production put it at 2015. Other estimates put it as close as 2005. Here's a question for all you econ majors: What happens when demand increases while supply decreases?

Based on his stupidity or the misinformation he has received from his oil industry cronies, President-Unelect Bush figures he can solve our problem. The solution to our problem is to find new oil fields on our own soil. This exercise in futility would be fine and dandy if the last undeveloped oil field in this country weren't in the middle of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

As pressure ramps up for drilling it seems that it's time for the World Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club to get out their compromising spirit and cut a deal. If this were just about the 200,000 caribou that live part of the year on the coastal plain (18 million acres of the Refuge are designated wilderness, only the 1.2 million acre coastal plain is unprotected) that might be all right. If this were about keeping the Brooks Range aesthetically pure, that might be all right too. If this were really about keeping the last five percent of Alaska's undrilled Arctic shore pristine, we might be able to work something out. There's something that the pundits, oil companies and even many environmentalists are overlooking, though: To drill ANWR would be genocide.

The Gwich'in people have lived in the area surrounding ANWR for close to 10,000 years. During that time they have developed a rich culture and a sustainable way of life that allows them to live close to the land without damaging it. While they have begun to use some kinds of appropriate technology such as snow machines and rifles, their lifestyle remains basically unchanged. The key to the Gwich'in way of life is the migration of the Porcupine caribou herd, which calves in the Refuge. They derive food, clothing and shelter from the caribou. Without them, their lifestyle and culture would abruptly end. Any drilling in the Refuge will disrupt the migration of the caribou and put the herd's survival in jeopardy.

Many native tribes welcome resource extraction on their ancestral lands because of the revenue it brings in. This revenue helps them continue to live their sad parody of western culture while destroying their heritage. The Gwich'in are not so tame. Ten thousand individuals strong, they have come together for the first time in a hundred years and drafted a unanimous declaration against the drilling. This isn't an issue for armchair backpackers anymore. This is deadly serious. How do I know? Because I've met many of the Gwich'in; some of them are my friends.

As the relative of Holocaust victims and survivors I know what it means to have your culture under lethal attack. The Jewish culture has been under such attack for as long as it has existed. The various Native American cultures have been under attack for as long as Europeans have been in this hemisphere. Now all that remains entirely intact of these native cultures are isolated fragments deep in the rainforests and far in the north. They have no Israel to retreat to like we Jews do. They are on the verge of destruction.

So when "Dubya" officially proposes opening up the Refuge, some of us aren't going to compromise. First we're going to tell him that if he wants to kick the supports out from underneath someone else's culture, first he's going to have to do it to his own. He's going to have to order military strikes on the headquarters of all the Fortune 500 and then firebomb a good portion of the churches and community centers as well. Mr. Bush probably won't accept our offer of mutually assured destruction, so then we're going to hop on airplanes and boats and go to Alaska.

I think instead of destroying this beautiful culture, our mental midget of a would-be tyrant ought to turn the running of our country over to it. In a world of increasingly severe oil shortages perhaps our over-ripe civilization could stand to learn a thing or two about sustainability from the Gwich'in.

So build your damns [sic], log our forests and mine our deserts but when it comes to genocide we say "NO F***ING COMPROMISE!!!"

-Wasim Rahman '02-

Islamic Society grateful for College support

Since my first days at Middlebury, the Islamic Society has been an important part of my life. Before coming to campus I worried about how my religion would fit into my life here. I understood I was coming to a school with very few Muslim students and that I would probably have to learn to manage my spiritual life alone. My primary goal was to simply get a first-rate education.

Today, I realize I have a lot to be thankful for.

Last Monday Middining began serving meat prepared according to Islamic dietary law in Freeman dining hall. For the nearly 50 members of the Islamic Society, the introduction of Halal meat was a landmark event. For me, two years of being a vegetarian at Middlebury came to an end. I thought back to my first term and truly realized how much the Muslim community has changed and how fast Middlebury has responded to our needs.

Few Middlebury students and faculty know that today there is a mosque on campus. It is a small room in the basement of Forest , where services are held every night at sunset. With the strong support of the college chaplain and dean of Student Affairs, the room is furnished with prayer rugs and a small but growing library.

Each Friday at noon, about eight students gather in the mosque to pray jum'ah, during which one student gives a sermon on how to be better Muslims. During Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and spiritual reflection, the room swells with 15 or more students, each coming to reaffirm their submission to God and break their day-long fast with friends. From meal credits during Ramadan to receiving recognition and support from the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership, the College administration has been very responsive to our needs.

Over February Break I attended the second Muslim Student Leadership Conference in Boston. I told representatives from Harvard, MIT and other colleges about Middlebury, our Islamic Society, budget and religious accommodations for Muslim students. Most were very surprised to hear about our relatively small numbers yet broad benefits.

Overall, the conference was an incredible opportunity for me to discuss the needs and concerns facing Muslim students. I even spent time speaking with various Muslim Student Association (MSA) presidents about the poster controversy and Islamophobic propaganda that swept the Middlebury campus last fall.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the students, faculty and administration that have worked relentlessly to accommodate Muslim students. In particular, College Chaplain Laurie Jordan, Peter Napolitano of Dining Services, Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson and C-CAL Director Doug Adams have been instrumental in helping our organization. Above all, I pray that religious life continues to be a priority at Middlebury, inshaAllah (God-willing).

Pocketbook Politics:

-Brian Ashley '04-

U.S. Immigration Policy:

A key to success or a ticket for disaster?

Most people spend their February Breaks in locations with average winter temperatures higher than those in Middlebury, Vt. (anywhere south of here). Apparently someone forgot to pass that information along to me, because I spent a week in Ottawa, Ontario (the capital of Canada, but of course you knew that). Amidst the bitter cold, freezing rain and time spent with my great uncle, I got the chance to watch a bit of Canadian news on television. During our February Break, the Canadian prime minister met with president George Bush at the White House. Much of the news coverage in Canada was about the fact that no one in the United States cared about the prime minister's visit, so the Canadians were having a conniption fit. They figured that if we made such a big deal out of Bush's visit with president Vincente Fox of Mexico, then we should also care about Canadian politics as well. What they fail to grasp is that unless Bush can figure out a solution to the current labor shortages gripping California farmers and political problems facing U.S. immigration policies, we will all be in for a few setbacks.

To outline the general situation, let me give you an example from Monday's Wall Street Journal. The article describes Larry Cox, an asparagus farmer in Calexico, Ca., and his huge problems concerning labor and immigration. Cox's problem is that there are not enough legal/illegal immigrants or citizens willing or able to do the work he needs. Due to this shortage, "There are days we can't get our crop out. What we can't get out in time we leave in the field to rot," said Cox.

Our tolerance of illegal immigration is creating a generation of children immigrants that will never get the right foot forward.

Currently Cox's solution to the problem has been the transportation of the picked produce to Mexico for processing and then back to the U.S. to be sold. This exercise is not only a drain on Cox's profits but a serious warning to the Bush Administration that the bottom of the U.S. labor market is in trouble and in need of assistance.

A solution proposed by Fox and supported by a group of U.S. senators is a form of guest worker program. As reported in the Journal, Bush and Fox will discuss the issue during their meeting scheduled for this Friday. While many farmers view this guest worker program as a solution to their woes, critics are quick to point out that California's farmers have historically done better in terms of revenues when they planted less acreage of crops and limited themselves to their supply of labor. For example, in California's Imperial Valley, almost 160,000 acres of crops were planted in 1990, with each acre yielding an average of under $2500 in revenues. However, in 1995, only 100,000 acres of crops were planted, yielding just under $5000 per acre in revenues. That correlates to a gain of $100,000,000 in revenues for planting significantly less crops. As well, the reduction of farmed acreage reduces the costs to farmers, which should raise their profits. However, the farmers continue to struggle against these theories, saying that the solution to their woes is simply more bodies.

At this point I will interject to give my humble opinion. I used to think that the last thing this country needed was more people from countries with different languages. Call it prejudice born out of an insecurity surrounding my position as a white male in America at the top of the dung heap, or call it ignorance, I thought that the U.S. should close its borders and follow in the words of Booker T. Washington when he said, "Cast down your bucket." I was sure that we could run our own factories, harvest our own crops, and still maintain our number-one seat in the world superpower ranking charts. However, I have come to realize that the U.S. is a melting pot, and if too many people back in the middle part of this century had thought the way I used to think, my grandfather may have never made it out of Austria to the U.S. After all, he ended up a very successful businessman even though he came here with only $12 dollars in his pocket and a changed last name. What I don't support, however, is illegal immigration. I would rather open the borders completely and allow every Mexican, Guatemalan, etc. into this country as citizens than continue with the charade that the government is conducting. If we could open up the floodgates just enough to curb illegal immigration and still allow a healthy flow of good workers into this country, we would all be much happier. We could tax the wages of immigrant workers, we could take proper care that their children were getting schooling and we could better regulate the health and safety of the workers and products they produce. Right now, our tolerance of illegal immigration is creating a generation of children immigrants that will never get the right foot forward and will forever be a drain upon social welfare and society.

All we can hope for is that Bush, Fox and Congress can hatch a solution to our present dilemma that protects farmers, keeps Mexico happy and prevents the U.S. taxpayers from bearing the burden.

-Kevin King '02-

A hard look at hard alcohol: College policy commended

This spring Middlebury College will be a much safer and more enjoyable place to be on weekends thanks to the efforts of several student leaders and college officials. These individuals have worked together to establish a new set of guidelines that will eliminate all forms of hard alcohol from open parties on campus. The updated guidelines also allow registered parties to run an hour longer and have slightly more beer and wine than previously permitted. This arrangement enhances safety in a number of ways, and should be regarded as a model for cooperation between students and administrators well into the future.

First and foremost, eliminating hard alcohol from open parties is an extremely important step towards reducing the volume and severity of drinking-related problems on campus. Liquor, as opposed to beer, is the culprit in an overwhelming majority of Health Center visits and cases of alcohol poisoning.

Secondly, by extending registorable party hours from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m., the College reduces the likelihood that students will drive unsafely to bars or off-campus parties after 1 a.m. Previous regulations forcing all on campus parties to close at 1 a.m. often caused students to look elsewhere for entertainment, most of the time in ways that jeopardized student safety.

Lastly, and perhaps least obviously, increasing the amount of beer or wine permitted at registered parties increases safety by ensuring that students remain in a social, controlled party environment. More beer and wine may seem counterproductive to safety, but in this case, the opposite is true. When one thinks about a typical weekend at Middlebury, it is safe to assume that the same amount of drinking will likely take place regardless of how much alcohol is available at open parties. Less alcohol at patrolled open parties means more behind closed doors in first-year dorms and off campus. Thus, student safety is increased dramatically when the drinking that does take place stays in a controlled environment like that offered by an open party.

This last point brings me to what I really wanted to write about when I started this letter. Though I am very excited to see this specific change in how the College deals with parties and safety, I feel like the compromise here is indicative of something greater. The College has two very obvious roads to take in dealing with drinking and safety on campus, one of which is to systematically force parties behind locked doors and off-campus. The alternative path, which I see in this policy change, is one characterized by compromise with student interests and by increased responsibility on behalf of the College to make sure campus life is both safe and enjoyable. Though it may be easier for the College to absolve itself of liability by driving parties and the occasional problems that come with them off campus, such a course of action does little for safety and often simply moves the dangers of drinking from campus to town.

I am not generally one to speak out in support of recent College policy changes, but I believe this one is deserving of everyone's support and approbation. If students and administrators continue to work together as they have in this case to tackle difficult issues like safety, the campus will certainly grow to be a much better and more enjoyable place to live.

Valentine's Day rituals lack heart and purpose

(continued from page 8)

sages , you're doing it as a result of your own freewill. This means only one of two related things are left as your motivation for helping a Tiffany's vice-president buy his wife another new car. Number one is that you never ever display or convey your affection or important feelings to your significant other at all, and therefore feel terribly guilty when you realize it on Valentine's Day, and so you cave in and buy. Number two is that you tell your significant other, "I — (choose one) love you/ really care for you / like you / just want to be friends"— all of the time, but it means so little to you that you, or your significant other, that you feel compelled to buy something anyway.

Okay, the reasons are clear and logical. Valentine's Day serves no useful purpose, nor does the partaking in its rituals of helping certain people, who already have more money than you, get even more.

By the way, I'd like to thank those people who gave me feedback on my previous article. Positive feedback is much more rewarding than a $2 flower. Or a little candy heart that says, "Be mine, and call me, you hot stud, because you're a cutie honey bun. Or hearing the "Who let the dogs out?" Valentine's Day remix…

Thanks for your time. I can't wait until Friendship Day. Or May Day. Or St. Patrick's Day. Or…

A Little Taste of Reality

-Ruth Howell '01 and Lisa Engelstein '01-

Chew on This:

In 1990, women were:
- 99.1% of all secretaries
- 94.5% of all registered nurses
- 97.0% of all child care workers
- 89.0% of all telephone operators
- 73.7% of all teachers (excluding colleges and universities)
- 87.2% of all data entry keyers

In 1990, women were only:
- 9.5% of all dentists
- 8.0% of all engineers
- 20.8% of all lawyers and judges
- 13.8% of all police and detectives
- 8.5% of all precision, production, craft and repair workers
- 19.3% of all physicians

Year-round full-time workers' earnings as a percentage of White Men's:

White men	100%
Black men	71.5%
Hispanic men	64.3%
White women	66.2%
Black women	60.9%
Hispanic women	54.8%

Occupations with the highest concentration by Race/Ethnicity/Sex:

Black women:	housekeepers, cooks
Black men:	garbage collectors, baggage porters
Hispanic women:	agricultural workers, sewing machine operators
Hispanic men:	farm workers, concrete finishers
Asian women:	dressmakers, launderers
Asian men:	physicians, engineers, cooks
Native American women:	welfare aids, child care workers
Native American men:	hunters, marine life workers
White women:	dental hygienist, secretaries

Source: "The Wage Gap: Myths and Facts" from Living with Contradictions.

Our Digestion:

Following 30 years of the women's movement, inequality still exists. This is especially true in the work force, as women not only make two-thirds of what men earn, but they are not exposed to as many career opportunities. Indeed, jobs are often associated with particular genders and race. Above we've listed professions dominated by one gender because the characteristics of the job are identified as either "masculine" or "feminine." In addition, society's associations extend beyond gender to include race and ethnicity.

Are these associations justified? Is there an inherent difference between men and women? And if so, can we overcome it? Cultural constructs shape our personalities, especially regarding gender. It is consequently challenging to draw a line between the influences of biology and culture on the development of our personalities. Although there is a genetic difference between races, does this explain the differences we observe between individuals, or is it a result of culture?

It is interesting to note that the jobs held primarily by women are nine-to-five jobs that don't require specific degrees thus allowing time and energy to maintain a household and raise a family. Times are changing and more and more women are working outside the house, yet they are often still responsible for family duties. Women therefore work a double shift: after working at their day job, they return home to care for the house and kids. In order to reach gender equality, we first need to deconstruct gender associations and responsibilities so that men and women can participate equally in the work world and the home.

-Ben LaBolt '03-

Left on the Offensive

Bush tax cut: a turkey in every pot?

Last week, President Bush introduced a "tax plan for working families," helping such people as the woman who appeared to be breast feeding her baby that he had placed in the background. Bush has introduced to Congress a 1.6 trillion dollar tax cut plan that will restructure the tax code over the next 10 years. He has done so despite a faltering economy rather than reinvesting the surplus through paying down the debt to help avoid slowdown. He clearly wants to avoid breaking campaign promises on taxes not only because this is still the salient issue for Republicans, but also because his father became infamous after promising "no new taxes" and then levying several when the economy tanked. By granting this cut at such an inopportune economic moment, Bush is further endangering a faltering economy, neglecting those who need the money most and writing off other domestic priorities.

Bush's tax cut relies on a surplus that may or may not appear, based on economists' predictions spanning years in advance. One of the reasons the Clinton-Gore Administration was able to end the deficit and run a surplus was that not only did they trim down the bureaucracy, but they eliminated the across-the-board tax cuts that had burdened the economy during the Reagan era. If economic success is Bush's mission, the money should be spent to pay down the debt to ensure that surpluses continue.

Bush has enlisted Alan Greenspan in gathering support for this cut even though Greenspan initially objected. This was a risky move because historically there remains a distance between the president and the chairman of the Federal Reserve. The chairmanship was designed as a supposedly nonpartisan position designed to monitor monetary trends in the economy, but Bush has approached him to support a partisan, fiscal policy to which, returning to his role as a partisan Republican, Greenspan accepted.

Bush says that returning this money to the American people will restore consumer confidence and spending. However, the Reagan era tax cuts showed that while consumer confidence may have gone up, the tax burden of the deficit was shifted to corporations who continued to lay off workers, forcing shareholders to continue selling their investments. The past decade has shown us that investment does not always parallel consumer spending anyway, and that there remained a high rate of investment whether or not corporations had appropriate profit margins to attract the investment.

If Bush wants to retain his campaign promise, he need not restructure the tax code and endanger the economy. He could simply rebate reasonable cuts to individuals across the board, but his current plan clearly favors the wealthy — the extremely wealthy. The top 1 percent of the population would reap 43 percent of the benefits; millionaires would receive a $46,000 tax cut, while the working class would receive $227. Bush would give the wealthy a loaded sports car, while working families could buy a Nascar video game to pretend they could purchase anything other than a Hyundai. Wealthy families can survive recessions, but working families do not have the job stability to survive them without seeing real consequences. Bush is obligated to protect workers from the possibility of job loss and wage reductions; he should let the top 1 percent take their losses in stride.

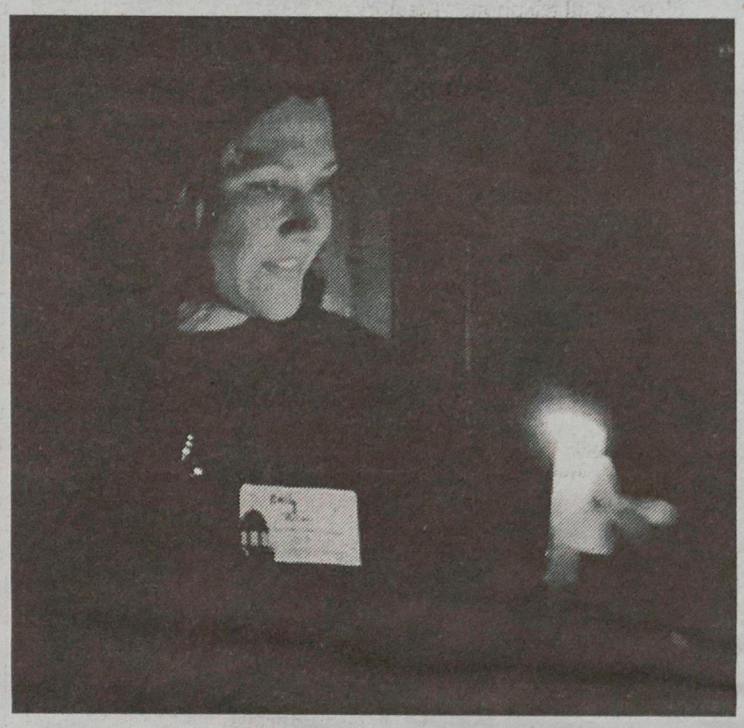
Here's the logic: Bush introduces a tax plan that threatens future surpluses and may spur a deficit, ignores social protections imperative during times of recession and protects an electorally insignificant 1 percent of the population who do not need protection. When working families are cut off from unemployment benefits and retirement aid, they can sleep soundly knowing that the money was reinvested in a more important government program: a welfare program for Ted Turner and Bill Gates.

FEB PHOTO ESSAY: *The rites of passage*

Hats fly high at Feb graduation.

Claire Wyckoff '03.5 and Burch Fisher '03.5 entertain the incoming Febs on the first day of orientation in Proctor Hall.

Nichole Tennant '04.5 fills out forms to register her car on campus during the first day of orientation.

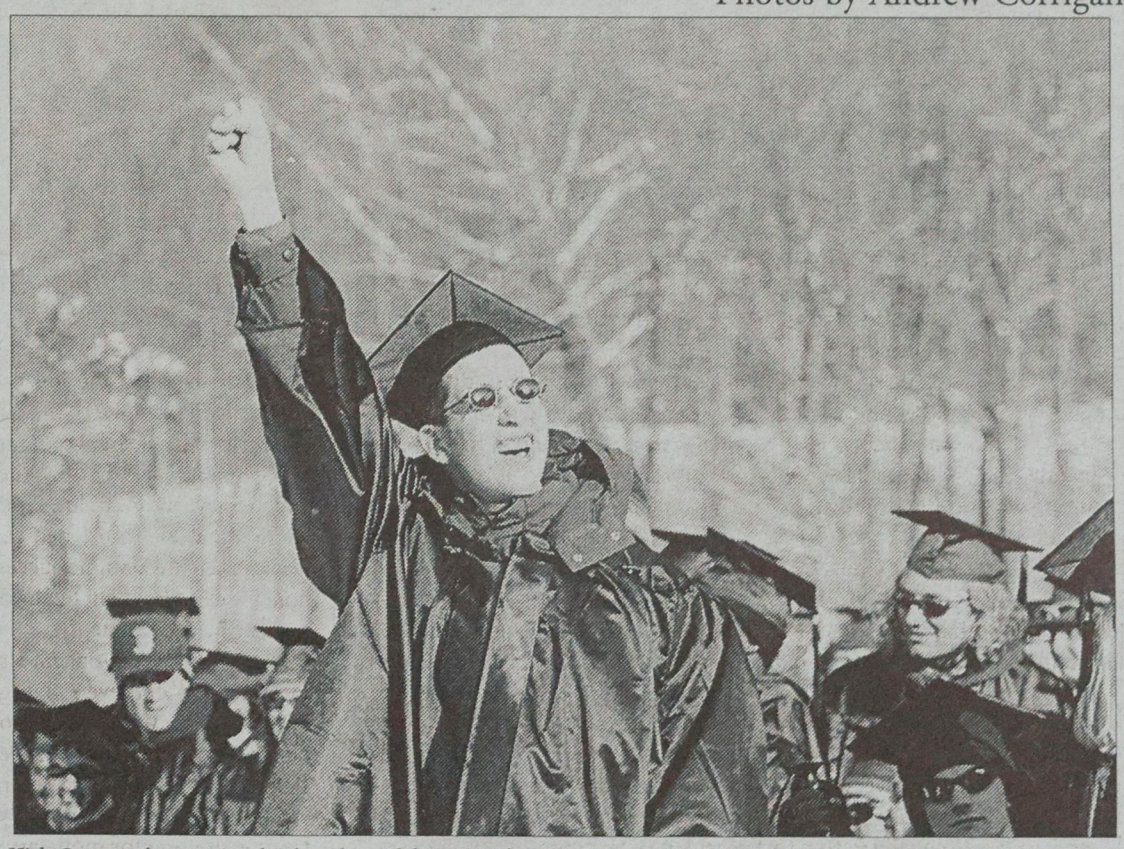


Emily Dellas '01.5 lights candles for the Febs during convocation.

As most of the campus enjoyed February Break, senior Febs descended the slopes of the Snow Bowl picking up their diplomas along the way, and new first-year Febs moved into their rooms and participated in orientation.

Photos by Andrew Corrigan

Some graduates used unconventional methods of getting down the hill.



Kirk German '00.5 raises his hand in celebration after successfully skiing down the Snow Bowl at Feb graduation.

Feb orientation 2001: snowball fights and shirtless nights

By Matt Longo
Staff Writer

"What's your name?"

"Where are you from?"

"What classes do you want to take?"

I lost track of how many times I answered those questions during the orientation held for new first-yea students, and I am sure my fellow Febs would agree. Beginning this past Wednesday, Feb. 7, 124 Febs arrived on the College campus for a five-day orientation that marked the start of their Middlebury careers.

Our Feb leaders took advantage of our vulnerability by pelting us with snowballs. Naturally, we fought back.

My first stop on Wednesday was Proctor Hall, where I picked up a very thick orientation packet and met several enthusiastic Feb student leaders. After moving into my room, I joined the other Febs for dinner at Proctor. Next, families and students gathered in Mead Chapel for Convocation. The Febs processed into the Chapel carrying lit candles, setting a serious mood. President McCardell addressed the crowd, discussing the challenges and opportunities Middlebury offers its students. Following Convocation, we split up into our orientation groups and met the other group members and leaders, who would become familiar faces during the week. For a unique finale to our first night at Middlebury, a square dance was held in McCullough. Initially, people seemed somewhat apprehensive about the idea of getting out on the dance floor, but everyone soon enjoyed the night of dancing.

Thursday's events were academically oriented. During the day, some students took placement exams, everyone attended first-year seminar meetings, some groups had computer orientation and many Febs met with their advisers. During the evening, Febs became more familiar with the Commons System as each commons sponsored a dinner for the new arrivals. Following dinner, everyone gathered in McCullough again, but this time for a "game show" which breathed life into the College Handbook in order to elucidate specific rules of the College. We then mingled at The Grille, where guitarist Anais Mitchell '04 serenaded the crowd with excellent vocals.

Andrew Corrigan

Gigi Gatewood '03.5 and Burch Fisher '03.5 display some of their characteristic enthusiasm during Feb Orientation.

On Friday afternoon, we assembled in Bicentennial Hall for course registration. Despite having the 118th place in line I still managed to enroll in the courses I hoped to take. With that ordeal overcome, we next assembled outside of Johnson, where we had a class photo taken. After the last picture was snapped, our Feb leaders took advantage of our vulnerability by pelting us with snowballs. Naturally, we fought back, much to the dismay of the photographer who was perched atop a ladder directly in the line of fire. Later in the evening we had an interesting dinner in McCullough. Following the meal, a student theatrical group performed several skits based on application essays. For a change of scenery, we then attended the men's hockey game against Massachusetts College. Thus, we were introduced to the cheers and heckling that can only be Middlebury hockey.

On Saturday, after another early moring breakfast, we boarded busses going to the Snow Bowl. Skiers and snowboarders found the conditions to be extremely icy and treacherous. With my ego and body bruised after a few graceful falls, I gladly boarded the bus back to Middlebury. After an afternoon of free time and evening dinner at Bicentennial Hall, most Febs and some non-Febs socialized at a dance party in McCullough. The different orientation groups each had their own theme. Some dressed retro-style and others went Hawaiian, whereas my group made fractions out of duct tape and taped them to our shirts. It was cool, I think. I was really confused when a bunch of guys took off their shirts during Madonna's "Like a Prayer."

Sunday, our final day of orientation, was quite low-key. We were finally allowed to sleep in before heading to brunch at Proctor. The finale to the orientation was a formal dinner at McCullough. Following the meals, each of the a cappella groups performed three songs. The Febs seemed to enjoy the energetic performances.

The performer who received the most applause was the gentleman who turned his back to the crowd to reveal a shirt that read, "Febs Do It Better" – an appropriate message to end our orientation.

Low spring enrollment spawned Feb phenomenon

By Claire Bourne
Features Editor

It's official. The class of 2004 Feb invasion has descended upon Middlebury.

New faces weave through the Proctor crowd. Arms reach for too-high mailboxes while minds mull over whether to turn the combination lock to the left or to the right. Conversations abound about a semester studying in England, about a great trek through Nepal or about a few months spent volunteering in a children's hospital.

Since the first 30 arrived exactly 30 years ago, Febs have earned a unique reputation for having had a gap semester between high school and college.

Arriving at Middlebury in the midst of Vermont's annual freeze is not an easy endeavor, but bundled in layers of fleece, the Febs are surviving, or rather thriving, as their predecessors have done for the last 30 years.

Defining the College's mid-year entry program is a difficult task, considering a noticeable lack of documentation on the subject. However, judging from its explosion onto the scene in 1971 and its steady rise in popularity, it's safe to say that the program is something of a phenomenon. "It has taken on a life of its own," commented current Dean of Admissions John Hanson.

According to former Dean of Admissions Fred Neuberger, the birth of mid-year admissions happened for several reasons.

Historically, he said, the College filled up in September with only an occasional readmission in February. However, students invariably dropped out after a few weeks, leaving the student body depleted and a significant number of rooms empty.

The dropout rate wasn't the only factor playing into diminished College revenues during spring semester. "Study abroad was also hitting heavily," explained Neuberger.

Dean of Students Erica Wonnacott thought she had found a solution to the problem. She approached Neuberger to see if he could convince transfer students to enroll at Middlebury for the spring. He wasn't sure this was the best option, claiming that the small number of interested applicants didn't meet the criteria for admissions.

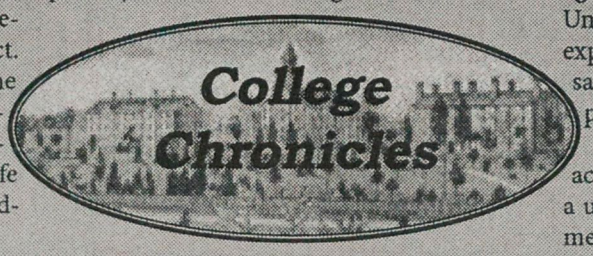
He was convinced that a group of first-years, if given the opportunity, would gladly accept a place at the College for admission in February. Wonnacott seconded the idea and guaranteed housing to those whom Neuberger admitted.

In January 1971, 30 freshmen matriculated.

Neuberger's plan was deemed a success, and with a couple of minor alterations, mid-year admissions became an annual affair.

After the first attempt, Neuberger and others realized that January was not the most opportune month for the new first-years to enter because of the "cuckoo tempo" inherent with Winter Term. February became the new month of arrival, hence the birth of the "February" freshman.

Something about that terminology struck Neuberger. He was certain that the new students would quickly shed the "Feb freshman" name, however he soon noted that they proudly wore it like "a badge of honor."



Also contrary to the administration's anticipation was the Febs' desire to complete a full four years at the College. Initially believing that mid-year entrants would want to finish with the rest of their class in the spring, the admissions office marketed the program toward those with a good number of AP credits or those who were willing to attend community college for a term. This marketing scheme soon died down, as the administration listened to requests for the added semester.

I would weep if [the Feb] program was cut off. It would be a monumental tragedy.

—Fred Neuberger, dean of admissions emeritus

The College also understood that in order to promote the program it would need to accept a substantial number of students. Neuberger said raising the intake to 100 was accomplished "with very little trouble."

"Pretty soon," he continued, "it seemed as if half the people you met on campus were Febs."

True, the Feb program offered more students the opportunity to attend Middlebury, but it also had positive implications for the institution itself. First of all, the College was able, according to Neuberger, "to take a whole bunch of fantastic kids who might have had a small cosmetic flaw like a low grade or a low test score." Secondly, "it brought in more bucks," he said, since the College was able to maintain full enrollment for the entire academic year.

When formulating a way to advertise the benefits of joining a Feb class, the College took one very important factor into consideration. This was the increased facility of a Feb graduate to enter the job market, Neuberger explained. Companies hiring at the beginning of any given year were, and still are, looking for new recruits to start immediately – a luxury evidently possessed by a mid-year graduate.

Neuberger recalled an encounter with a couple of Middlebury students not so long ago. While perusing the aisles of Grand Union, he overheard them talking about their experiences as Febs. He approached them and said, "That was my program, and I'm damn proud of it!"

Since the first 30 arrived on campus exactly 30 years ago, Febs have gradually earned a unique reputation for having had a gap semester between high school and college during which to absorb the teachings of a wide variety of experiences in diverse environments.

Distinctive also is their graduation tradition of descending the Snow Bowl mountainside in caps and gowns. On skis, snowboards, toboggans, Sno-tubes. It doesn't matter how.

"I would weep if [the Feb] program was cut off," declared Neubergger. "It would be a monumental tragedy."

"There are so many more highly qualified students than available places," said Hanson.

So, Neuberger can rest his mind, as Febs won't be disappearing from the campus any time soon. The traditions will endure, and the fresh faces, no matter how rosy and frozen from the sub-zero wind chill, will continue to appear every February prepared for a full four-year Middlebury experience.

Seaweed salad and sushi near Champlain's shores

By Kristine Palmero
Staff Writer

A wise man once said, "There are three rules to remember when dining out: 1) beware the Sunday brunch menu: you're paying 12 bucks for last night's leftovers skillfully hidden inside your omelet; 2) check the bathroom: if it's dirty, who knows what condition the kitchen is in; and finally, 3) don't pay for cheap sushi."

The sage has obviously never stepped foot in Koto, a seriously fun Japanese steakhouse on 792 Shelbourne Road in South Burlington.

The waiters weave quickly in and out of traffic, Japanese pop music plays in the background and there are sporadic bursts of flames as the chef fries your food.

Koto, with its bright red neon sign, is one of those places that you always promise to check out. But drive after drive to Burlington, it remains much in the same state as your stomach: empty. You have been missing out on oh-so-much. "Koto" is both a Japanese word and a state of mind, which when taken literally, means ancient capitals, a reference to the cities which have historically served as Japan's center.

Although Koto said that we did not need a reservation for 6 p.m. Friday night, one should play it safe and call beforehand. Popular among UVM students, families and friends having dinner after work, Koto is doing fine business.

Koto is the exception to the rule that quality sushi is neither quick nor inexpensive.

Think of this Japanese steakhouse as the juxtaposition of contrasts: cheap, great sushi; Japanese food served at a golden-arches pace; and fish swimming in "rivers" that line the path to your table.

Even before you sit down for your meal, the atmosphere grabs you with an energy that is almost palpable. The waiters weave quickly in and out of traffic, Japanese pop music plays in the background and there are sporadic bursts of flames as the chef fries your food in front of you. A special section of the restaurant is for patrons who want to order off the steakhouse menu.

Tonight, though, we chose a table in the Tatami section of the restaurant, which provides traditional Japanese style dining with a more comfortable, intimate feel.

The Tatami section was comparatively less full than the steakhouse section, which worried us a little. Were we going to have to pay an extra $20 for sitting in the quieter, popular-among-families-and-couples-only section? Nope. Unlike other Japanese restaurants where you might have to shell out an extra $10-$20 for a Tatami table, this was not the case at Koto.

Our waiter quickly brought us our pitcher of water, chopsticks and miso soup, the traditional soybean paste soup with bits of tofu and scallions, which came as part of the tempura meal. I ordered the seaweed salad ($3.75) and my friends chose the soft-shell crab ($6.50) and the tako ($3.75), or octopus sushi. The tart-sweet salad was straightforward Japanese fare and the soft-shell crab was pleasant and mild in flavor. I wasn't as adventurous with the tako: I thought they looked cute, much like the red rubber octopus toys you threw against the wall when you were younger.

"I couldn't actually taste the octopus itself because it was in a sauce that was both sweet and spicy," said Willow Stein '01. "It was actually pretty good [but] it's the octopus texture I'm not completely sold on… it's like crunchy rubber."

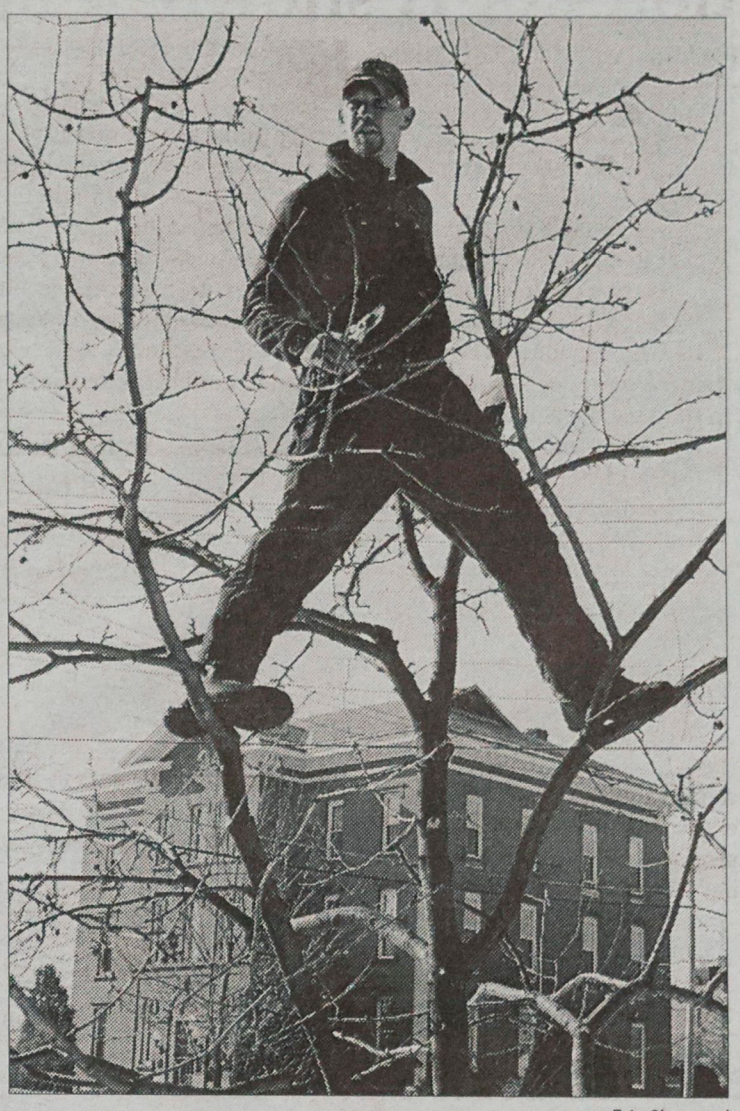
I also ordered the California roll ($3.50 for six rounds), which contains avocado, cucumber and a bit of ersatz crab. It is a good starter sushi for people who are worried about raw fish. The best sushi not only tastes good, but also looks pretty on the plate. And this California roll was a beauty: rice and other stuff perfectly rolled in crisp seaweed. If you don't want raw fish, ask for their ebi (cooked shrimp), kappamaki (cucumber roll) or tamago (omelet on a rice ball).

The best sushi not only tastes good, but also looks pretty on the plate. And this California roll was a beauty: rice and other stuff perfectly rolled in crisp seaweed.

Then we tucked away orders of vegetable tempura (fried sweet potato, cauliflower, broccoli and shitake mushrooms for ($11.75) and the assorted tempura ($13.75), which included shrimp. Both dishes were of a generous size.

The nicest part about the meal? It was a friend's 22nd in two days, so I asked the waiter "to take our picture with the birthday girl" with the hope that we'd get a free birthday cake to go with an already fabulous dinner. No cake, but we did get fried ice cream with a candle and a birthday song from two of the waiters. It was a lovely night.

Balancing Act



Eric Skovsted

Bracing his legs against two strong branches, *Mike Sunderland, a landscape service employee, does some pruning in front of Weybridge.*

What About Bob?

By Bob Wainwright
Sports Editor

Good evening and Happy Valentine's Day, especially to those of you who read this column religiously (That means you Mom). I'd also like to wish Claire Bourne a Happy Valentine's Day, because she is the editor of the Features section, and my column was late this week. Hopefully, she'll be able to read this and make corrections in time for print. Well we've got a lot to discuss this week, such as the California power outage, is love real and how I was nearly buried alive by falling plywood when I went to play tennis in Fletcher this morning.

But first, I really do believe absolutely truly that no vacation is more deserved than the 10-day break we are given after Winter Term. I mean, it's incredible that the school asks as much of us as they do, what with the classes three days a week and all. I have one friend who had class from 8 to 11 on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Can you imagine asking college students to wake up at such an ungodly hour on some of the coldest mornings of the year?

Luckily for us however, our school understands how much pressure it puts on us during the Winter Term, and that is why we have February Break. Personally, I think that the week after Winter Term is the best opportunity during the year to go on a road trip with a few of your best friends and visit colleges as far away as UNC, which is in Alabama.

So with that in mind, I packed a few of my belongings, made a mix of Britney Spears' greatest hits and bought a dummy that I could put in the passenger seat so I could use the HOV lane on all major highways while heading south. (Understand that it's not necessary to road trip with friends. You can also have a great time by yourself if you choose...or if your friends bail on you too.)

My first stop on my road trip was Washington D.C., which if you do not already know is our nation's capital. For those of you who have never been, make sure to go some time in the future, and while you're there visit the White House. But make sure to wait at least a couple months so that new furniture can be bought to fill up all the empty rooms on the tour.

While in D.C. I stayed with a couple of my high school friends who go to Georgetown University. Georgetown is like Middlebury only different. It is made up of (Claire, please insert correct #) undergraduates and (please insert correct #) graduate students. You are probably really impressed that I know those numbers offhand, but all I can say is that when I go places I like to make sure I do my (Claire, I can't remember the word I want to use here) ahead of

(see Dummies, page 14)

CAMPUS VOICES

What was the most bizarre thing you did during Winter Term?

Compiled by Jon White

Photos by Alex Westra

"Exotic dancing."

—Aliza Watters '03

"I skied for 36 days straight."

—Mike Kirkland '03.5

"I took an exam while still drunk."

—Clare Studwell '04

"I dipped Twix in Ranch."

—Sean Nelson '02

Officially, the purpose of studying in France is cultural immersion. It's the opportunity to understand French society, become versed in the idioms of the language and learn to see Paris as more than the Eiffel Tower and the City of Lights. It's a chance to spend a semester away from the things everyone takes for granted—the safety of a small town, the ease of a first language, the security of a school where we know exactly what's expected. Spending a semester abroad is for developing maturity, gaining experience, broadening horizons and seeing the world.

But the real reason I am here is for the food.

What I remember most from past *séjours* in France are not the museums I visited, the expressions I picked up or even the people I met. My most vivid memories are the figs I ate during a stormy Toussaint vacation on the Atlantic; the smell of roasting chickens outside butcher shops; the artichokes, goat cheese and dense *ficelles* (thin baguettes) we had for Sunday lunches in the spring; the white chocolate ice cream at Berthillon.

Conversations with other people about France have a tendency to become catalogs of the good things we'd eaten there. My sister and I still go into trances of gastronomic joy remembering the cart at Hiély from which you can choose as many desserts as you want (chocolate cake, raspberry sauce, caramel ice cream, honey tart). I've spent more than one Proctor dinner discussing cheeses with a friend who raves about *brie* and *raclette*. Meeting a fellow francophile almost invariably leads to a rhapsodic discussion of white peaches, foie gras and fat asparagus.

Admittedly, this all seems like a bad case of gluttony. But the month that I've been in France has confirmed what I've really always known. Becoming obsessed with food is the best way for an American to integrate herself into French society, because eating is a national passion. The woman I'm living with told me that the people of southern France are much more focused on food than their northern counterparts, who appreciate the pleasures of a good meal but don't make it the center of their lives.

The French of the south must have attained a pitch of gourmandise that resembles a cult, because as far as I can tell, the Parisians regard eating as a sacred object, to be treated with respect and honor. Yesterday I stopped at the *boulangerie* right before it closed and asked for a *pain complet*, since it was the only whole-wheat kind left. The shopkeeper picked up the loaf to wrap and feeling the crust warned me that it was a day old. I almost laughed thinking of how, in the U.S., the standard is pre-sliced bread, packed with preservatives and sealed in plastic, that lan-

(see Paris, page 16)

Course brings touch of Hollywood to Middlebury

By Jon White
Features Editor

Middlebury College alumni Andrew Peterson '87 returned to campus this Winter Term to teach a course that enabled 14 students to gain invaluable first-hand experience in the process of filmmaking.

Peterson's course, "Intensive Film Workshop," took students step-by-step through the process of preparing a scene for shooting, actually shooting the film and then editing the various shots to produce a formal finished project.

Peterson, who works independently on a project-by-project basis out of Minneapolis, just completed a film shoot in North Dakota with Henry Fonda before returning to Vermont. After graduating from Middlebury with a degree in history, he went on to study film at New York University (NYU) and has been actively working in the industry for several years since graduating.

Under his guidance, Middlebury students began the term with a read-through of the screenplay to be developed over the course of the term. Peterson selected from among several scripts submitted to the film department by screenwriting students expressly for the project.

Peterson's final choice was a script by Otis Hart '01 that details the trials of a high school student from a dysfunctional lower class family working as a janitor at a preppy, elitist college in the same town. The amusing script centers on the boy's finding an expensive fleece coat and winning, and eventually losing, acceptance from the students on campus.

Auditions were held for actors that mimicked the actual auditioning process Peterson and his industry colleagues use in selecting actors for films. Chris Timberlake '01, Ami Formica '03, as well as faculty members Don Mitchell, lecturer in the English and film departments, and Rebecca Gooch, academic program coordinator for the Theater, Dance and Film/Video department, were selected as the four principal actors.

> **Things are so exaggerated. It could take us a half hour, maybe two hours to set up what turns out to be a 20-second shot.**
>
> **—Jacqueline Fitzpatrick '01**

Each member of the class made some form of cameo appearance in the film.

After the read-through, Peterson and his class fine-tuned and edited the script before assigning each student a scene to direct.

Courtney Hess '03, a film major who participated in Peterson's Winter Term course, said that the details of preparing a scene for an actual shoot are quite involved. Peterson instructed his students in the preparation process by showing them how to go about making prop and costume lists, as well as how to "story-board." Story-boarding involves drawing picture frames of set-ups and actor positioning in individual scenes.

Once students completed story-boarding as well as lists and directions for the scene, they began six-to-eight-hour days of videotaping the screenplay.

Hess said the process closely paralleled the classic Hollywood method of shooting a film. Students directed about three rehearsals and takes for each scene. They filmed a "very manageable" three pages of the script each day according to Hess. Locations included Proctor and Pearsons, as well as some takes off-campus and outdoors. Hess commented that the January cold proved trying to student directors and actors alike, but the class managed to complete the filming in six days.

Following the shoots, Peterson led his students through methods in which filmmakers edit scenes by stringing together different clips and shots, adding music, and making sure that the film itself "flows." Hess said that on average it took about three hours to edit one minute of the film.

The editing process is highly technical. Students used "High Eight" tapes for the videotaping – a type of tape that converts the image to a digital computer-screen format, allowing students to edit using computer programs.

After one round of editing, the class created a "rough-cut" that they watched in order to see the editing process unfold. For Hess, watching the first viewing was "a combination of feeling very impressed with all that we had accomplished, but also sadness in knowing that, because of the Winter Term time limitations, we couldn't continue the editing process."

Following a brief second round of editing, the class finalized a "video-lock" version of the picture in which the photo editing had reached a finished state, though work remained on sound, titles and credits.

Hess said that the course was a phenomenal experience, not only in bringing students into contact with a professional in the film industry, but also by allowing interaction "of folks at all different experience levels." Hess said that it was "great to see older, experienced film majors working next to freshmen."

Jacqueline Fitzpatrick '01, a senior film major who also participated in Peterson's workshop, also mentioned that the workshop allowed her to better understand the labor and time-commitment that goes into producing a film or video.

"Things are so exaggerated," said Fitzpatrick. "It could take us a half hour, maybe two hours to set up what turns out to be a 20-second shot."

Fitzpatrick also praised Peterson's leadership. Rather than employing an overly formal teaching approach, Peterson guided his class with a style Fitzpatrick characterized as "acting as a contributor and a knowledgeable equal to his student."

Both Fitzpatrick and Hess said that the course manifested the ideal Winter Term experience, as being enrolled in only one course allowed them both to direct all their time and energy into the project at hand without the stress of additional obligations.

The final version of the video turned out to be 17-and-a-half minutes. After some members of Peterson's class complete some more touch-up work on the film over the next few weeks, each class member will hopefully receive their own copy and the Middlebury community can look forward to a public presentation of the project in weeks to come.

Dummies provide HOV accessibility

(continued from 'Bob' page 13)

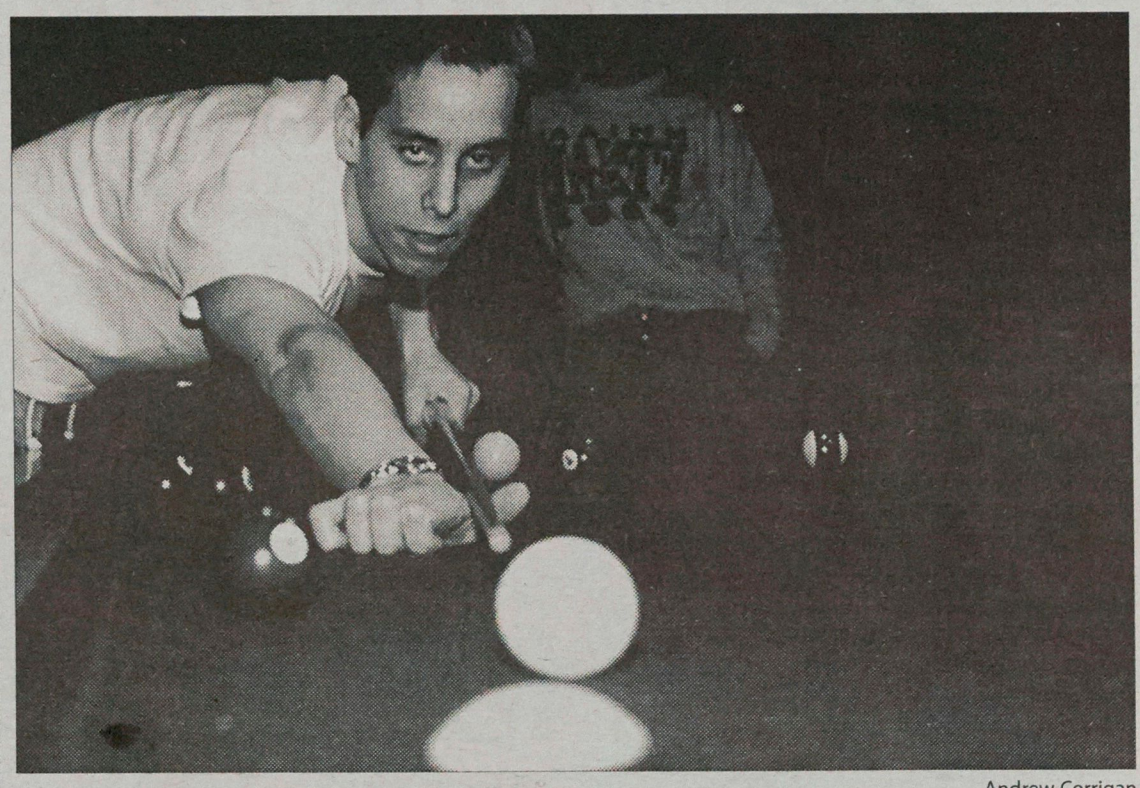
time.

From Georgetown, I went on to the University of Virginia, where one of my best buddies goes to school. Virginia is a fun school like Middlebury, but while most of the people here are from Boston, most of the people there are from a small town in the south. One of the similarities I found was that Virginia girls are as good-looking as Middlebury girls. However, since it's located in Virginia and not in the coldest place in the world, the girls don't have to walk around in turtlenecks, overcoats and snow pants. Oh well, at least warm weather is only three months away.

The return home from a road trip is the least fun part. You have nothing to look forward to, and even Britney is starting to get a little tiresome. What is worse is if you are like me, you drive on every major highway for about two hours longer than you should, causing your five hour drive to turn into something more like 12. At that point you decide you can't even make it up to Middlebury by Monday morning and you spend Sunday night in NYC. And when you finally get to Middlebury on Monday, you remember that the paper is coming out in one day and you forgot there was a paper at Middlebury, much less the fact that you are an editor on it. Then you end up writing your column as almost an afterthought at three o'clock in the morning when all you really want to do is sleep and dream of run-on sentences.

That said, I believe I have run out of time without even covering the topics I intended to discuss. So, in short summary, the deal with the California power outage is this: Everything begins on the west coast. Pokemon, fads like extreme sports and even chest hair began in California. So watch out New York because your lights will be out soon. Around Valentine's Day, many people ask the question, "Does true love exist?" The answer to that is, yes, it does. Finally, the rumors are true. Fletcher has been closed due to a rotted-out roof. Unfortunately, squash and track teams no longer have a practice facility. Oh, and the Middlebury skeet team will have to find somewhere else to shoot clay pigeons as well.

Grilling up some fun



Andrew Corrigan

Taking advantage of the free food night at The Grille, *first-year Febs got to enjoy a popular place on campus without the hustle and bustle of normal semester crowds.*

Summer expedition to explore pristine realm of 'Siberia's pearl'

By Claire Bourne
Features Editor

Think of Siberia. Desolation. Bitter cold. The ruins of forced labor camps.

But nestled near the region's southern border is its best-kept secret – Lake Baikal, a crystal-clear lake often referred to as "the pearl of Siberia." While easily the oldest and largest freshwater lake in the world, it also nurtures a one-of-a-kind bionetwork of plant and animal species.

How far removed from Middlebury, Vt., one may think. Not so, however. In less than five months, through an affiliation with Vermont-based Project Harmony, Professor of Humanities James West will lead a 15-person expedition to Baikal for a 30-day cultural and environmental experience.

Project Harmony: paving the way to better U.S.-Russian relations

In 1985, Project Harmony began as a cultural exchange between student choir groups in the United States and the Soviet Union. Even though program coordinators Kathy Cadwell '77, Charlie Hosforth and David Kelly boasted no prior experience with this kind of activity, they were dedicated to the idea of increased personal contact between citizens of the United States and those of the U.S.S.R. They believed this was one way to ease tensions created by the Cold War.

"Project Harmony empowers individuals to create healthier communities through international exchange and training programs," reads the organization's mission statement.

The success of the initial exchange between Vermont's own Harwood Union High School and a secondary school in Leningrad led to multiple subsequent programs.

Having survived on private donations for several years, Project Harmony finally received grants from the United States government and was, therefore, able to expand. Permanent offices were established in Waitsfield, Vt. and Leningrad.

In the early 1990s the organization began its Cultural Heritage Program, which invited young people to research folk customs and genealogy. Also through Project Harmony, several hundred students from all over the Newly Independent States (NIS) – the former U.S.S.R. – had the opportunity to attend schools in the United States for a semester or a year and live with an American family. The successful dynamic between the exchange students and their host families solidified Cadwell, Hosforth and Kelly's vision.

Formed by a rift between two plates, Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and contains more water than all the Great Lakes combined.

While committed to bridging the cultural gap between America and Russia, Project Harmony continues to devote time and effort to environmental issues. The early 90s witnessed the launch of school, ecology-focused exchanges, during which participants contemplated problems of pollution in American, Russian and Latvian lakes and streams.

Programs such as these plowed the path for Project Harmony's upcoming summer expedition to Lake Baikal, a trip that promises to remain true to the organization's belief in "the spirit of exploration."

Why Lake Baikal?

Just north of the border between Siberia and Mongolia lies 20-million-year-old Lake Baikal, home to 20 percent of the world's fresh water. Formed by a rift between two plates, the lake is the deepest in the world, plunging 1,620 meters below its surface containing more water than all the Great Lakes combined.

Even more significant than Baikal's immense size is its unique ecosystem. The lake's bionetwork, often compared to that of the Galapagos Islands, is closed yet diverse. West, who has already visited the area four times, said one highlight of his experiences there was traveling the 450-mile length of the lake – "an unfolding 14-hour saga" – and witnessing ecological, geological and climatic changes. "It looked to me like the landscape changed every 30 to 40 kilometers. Sometimes it looked like the grasslands of Mongolia, sometimes like Siberia and sometimes like the Scottish Lake Country," he remarked.

Lake Baikal's surrounding environment is home to 1,500 animal species. Nine hundred of these creatures, the most famous being the world's only species of freshwater seal, cannot be found anywhere else on earth.

"This is the purest water in the world. Its visibility is unparalleled," West described. He said he felt like "Christ walking on water" when treading on the lake's translucent, three-feet-thick ice.

A wildlife sanctuary with assorted neighboring landscapes, Lake Baikal is, in the words of West, "an environmentalist's playground."

But all is not bright for the lake's future. According to Project Harmony's website, "For half a century, the ecosystem of Baikal has been under pressure, first from industrial development, then from resource exploitation and most recently from the expansion of population and tourism."

Only 23 square miles – four percent – of the lake is polluted, as of now, but for many conservationists, that is too much. Lake Baikal continues to feel the consequences of the rapid industrial growth that took place during the Soviet Union's communist regime. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia had "no market mechanism and no environmental movement," explained West. "Lake Baikal is being impacted by growing population pressure and the pressure of an economy flat on its back." Private enterprises, unhindered by weak regulations, "can use their property as they want," he continued.

A wildlife sanctuary with assorted neighboring landscapes, Lake Baikal is, in the words of Professor James West, "an environmentalist's playground."

According to West, a series of grimy industrial towns, which house abandoned and rusting factories, located just beyond Irkutsk on the Angara River, the lake's only outflowing tributary, stand in contrast to the purity of Baikal's ecosystem.

Construction of a dam on the Angara forced the lake to rise a foot. Coal-fired plants upwind from Baikal, overgrazing, poaching and excessive extraction of natural resources are recognized by environmentalist groups as menaces to the area's ecological stability.

The most imminent threat to Baikal is undoubtedly the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill on the southern shore. Built in 1966, the mill drew strong protests from Soviet scientists and writers because of dioxin and other toxic waste deposits into the lake. This was the first time that the Russian public had responded negatively to anything, West explained. This was birth of the Russian environmentalist movement, and most likely the birth of Russian democracy, he continued. Despite a 1971 decree by the Soviet government to control polluting emissions, industrial discharge still remains a concern within environmentalist circles.

"The lake is under siege from the paper mill and the three power plants [on its southeastern bank]," West maintained.

Various groups, including international conservation activists, government and industry officials, indigenous peoples and researchers, "continue to wrestle over the complex issues surrounding the present-day state of Baikal and its uncertain future," explains the Project's website.

In 1987, the Lake Baikal Coastal Protection Zone was created to monitor the lake and its environs. This same area went on to be named a World Heritage Site in 1996.

"Though the lake's environment is being changed, environmentalists recognize this as a hot spot. It can still be saved," claimed West.

Baikal's uniqueness lies not only in its ecological composition, but also in its cultural heritage. Reputed birthplace of the legendary Genghis Khan, the shores of the lake are home to several indigenous groups, including the Buryat and the Evenk.

Buryat legend has it that the mythological figure pulled a chunk out of the earth and tossed it into the sky. The remaining cavity is Lake Baikal, and the dislodged rock is the moon.

Summer 2001: expedition to Baikal

From July 1 to July 31, West will lead an expedition of 15 participants on a field exploration of the Baikal region. Though the trip is not connected with the College and will not provide credit, Miranda Luytens, manager of Project Harmony's education programs, commented, "Having a critical mass from Middlebury would be great." In fact, since its creation, Project Harmony has attracted a number of Middlebury graduates to its offices.

The idea for the Baikal excursion was born last March when a Project

(see Baikal, page 16)

Courtesy Photo

The summer 2001 expedition to Lake Baikal will include visits to indigenous villages and dialogue with natives.

Courtesy Photo

With everchanging scenery, the 450-mile-long lake is "simply breathtaking," said Professor West.

Ensler's V-day goes local, worldwide

By Elizabeth Logue
Associate Editor

In the March issue of *Marie Claire*, some astounding statistics were published, statistics that are all too familiar to women around the world; every two minutes in the United States a woman is raped, and even more shocking, every 15 seconds a woman is battered.

While statistics like these should send a chill up anyone's spine, playwright and Middlebury alumna Eve Ensler '75 says that it was talking personally to women around the world about the violence and oppression inflicted upon them that inspired her to write the 1997 Obie Award winning "Vagina Monologues." The play both celebrates female sexuality and condemns violence.

"The whole play was totally off the record. I interviewed women while I was writing the real play.... To some degree, 'The Vagina Monologues' has never really been any of my business," Ensler explains in the V-Day edition of "The Vagina Monologues," a book written in explanation of the significance of V-Day.

"It did not occur to me that I was actually performing 'The Vagina Monologues' until I had been doing it for about three years...I felt merely as if I were telling very personal stories that had been told to me," Ensler continues. As she traveled, bringing "The Vagina Monologues" to men and women around the world, Ensler was entrusted with hundreds of personal stories from women who had been victims of incest, battery and rape.

"Slowly, it dawned on me that nothing was more important than stopping violence toward women – that the desecration of women indicated the failure of human beings to honor and protect life, and this failing would, if we did not correct it, be the end of us all," she writes.

This realization has ultimately led to the creation of V-Day, a day for which annual theater and arts events are produced in local, national and international venues to raise money to end all violence against women of all ages.

> **I feel like the vagina queens came down and selected me to serve.**
>
> **—Eve Ensler '75**

In 1997, Ensler met with a group of feminists and, together, they formed V-Day. "The miracle of V-Day, like 'The Vagina Monologues,' is that it had to happen," explains Ensler, and on Feb. 14, 1998, Valentine's Day, V-Day was born at New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom.

Supported by celebrities such as Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon and Gloria Steinem, among others, "The Vagina Monologues" raised over $100,000 and went on to inspire a dramatic increase awareness for the intended cause.

Ensler's compilation of monologues has been playing to sold-out audiences at Off-Broadway's Westside Theater since its opening Oct. 3, 1999.

This year's V-Day celebration took place in Madison Square Garden on Feb. 10, and attracted 70 female celebrities. "The Vagina Monologues" were performed to a sold-out crowd by such celebrities as Glenn Close, Claire Danes, Marisa Tomei and Brooke Shields. In an interview by *The New York Times* a few days before the evening gala, Ensler told reporter Lynda Richardson, "I feel like the vagina queens came down and selected me to serve."

And why wouldn't they? Ensler voiced strong opinions from an early age. Describing herself as a "raging lunatic" during her college years, Ensler even gave the commencement speech for her graduating Middlebury class and "ranted about feminism, racism and civil rights." Always outspoken and strong-minded, she said she became an activist because she always "felt powerless as a child."

On over 50 college campuses nationwide, Middlebury included, "The Vagina Monologues" will be performed on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. Middlebury's proceeds will go to benefit the Addison County Women in Crisis Center, and will undoubtedly attract a sold-out crowd in support of a world where women can live "safely and freely."

The comprehensive informational support for the play is available at www.vday.org. On it, one can read further about the origins of V-Day and some of the specific inspirations behind "The Vagina Monologues."

Courtesy Photo

Eve Ensler '75 performs "The Vagina Monologues," a work that has inspired a movement to stop violence against women and children.

Baikal trip will focus on environment

(continued from page 15)

Harmony representative met with West. They slated the trip for summer 2001, given the weather conditions would be more favorable then than during Winter Term. West's prior experiences in the region and Project Harmony's permanent staff of three in its recently established office in the town of Irkutsk only made the prospect more appealing.

According to an agenda compiled by West and the folks at Project Harmony, the summer voyage will include a wide variety of activities: wilderness treks along the lakeshore and surrounding forests, visits to "environmentally sensitive sites"; a journey along the length of the lake on a hydrofoil watercraft; dialogue with government and national park officials, scientific researchers, industrial developers and local and foreign environmentalists; stopovers with the indigenous Buryat and Evenk peoples; volunteering at a youth environmental education camp on Olkhon Island; and homestays with Russian families in Irkutsk.

"If it stands up, chop it down. If it runs away, shoot it. That has been the peasant way," said West. He explained however that environmental consciousness is beginning to emerge among the peoples of the Baikal region, hence the importance of the group's visit to the environmental camp. Despite the language barrier, West counts on this to be an important part of the group's sojourn on the lakeshore.

Not surprising is Luytens' confidence in the success of the trip's homestay component. "Project Harmony feels strongly about this," she commented. "Being with a Russian family and experiencing home life offers a different perspective."

She doesn't fail, however, to mention an "added benefit" of this valuable cultural experience – "the sheer beauty" of Baikal's environment. "It is spiritually a moving experience for the nature itself," she explained. "This trip will hopefully give more Americans the opportunity to become aware of environmental issues and appreciate the beauty of the lake," she continued.

"Visiting this pristine outpost of nature is a religious experience," seconded West.

Is this the summer experience for you?

Despite all the talk about Baikal's "environmentalist 'hot spot' status," the journey will not be focused on field research, Luytens said. While an ideal opportunity for environmental studies and Russian majors, she stressed that the 15 spots are open to anyone interested.

Though the program is not sponsored by the College, West said he hopes Middlebury students will express a desire to participate. "We're looking for people interested in the outdoors, in abroad adventures and in environmental issues," he elucidated.

The criteria for applicants set out by Project Harmony include the following: outdoor experience, including hiking and camping, an interest in environmental issues and/or foreign cultures, the ability to function positively and productively as a group member, flexibility and resourcefulness.

West will be speaking about the upcoming journey at the Environment Studies Colloquium on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 12:20 in Bicentennial Hall 220.

Paris affords 'trances of gastronomic joy'

(continued from 'Paris' page 14)

guishes on its grocery-store shelf for days before getting tossed into someone's shopping cart.

Produce is equally fresh and high-quality. It may be the middle of January, but the tomatoes are red and juicy, unlike their pale, dry mid-winter American counterparts. The lettuce I buy needs a serious bath before getting dressed with vinaigrette, not to remove pesticides, but to rinse off the dirt coating the base—an agreeably earthy effect in contrast to grocery store vegetables, which always seem to have been scrubbed, sanitized and institutionalized.

Even at this season the variety at the local Sunday *marché* is dazzling. My hometown farmer's market, famous among the American gastronomic elite, hardly reaches this array of selection during the height of summer. Brussels sprouts, beets, escarole, sweet peppers, seven different varieties of potatoes; fish sellers with not only sole and salmon but fish I've never heard of (even in English) and baskets of clams, mussels, oysters, even octopus; a little stall with countless bowls of olives; butchers with whole chickens, little quails, rabbits, duck and something that looked a lot like squirrel.

The combination of sensory overload and rush-hour-on-the-Metro style crowds make the *marché* somewhat overwhelming, so I've been doing most of my shopping at the tiny vegetable shop next door to my apartment. The quality is good, the prices are ridiculously low (today I bought lettuce, five small tomatoes, a bunch of carrots, a red pepper and a handful of brussel sprouts for the equivalent of $2.50) and the vendors are honest, making sure to avoid selling you any wilted spinach or overripe avocado. And the variety is inspiring.

I've abandoned recipes and have instead taken to spending my metro commutes and boring moments in class dreaming about how to cook the tuna steak in the refrigerator. Pan seared? Marinated in lemon and soy and topped with a citrus compote? And what to have with it—roasted green beans or sautéed spinach?

After all, the phrase "It's not greed, it's a cultural experience" can justify a lot.

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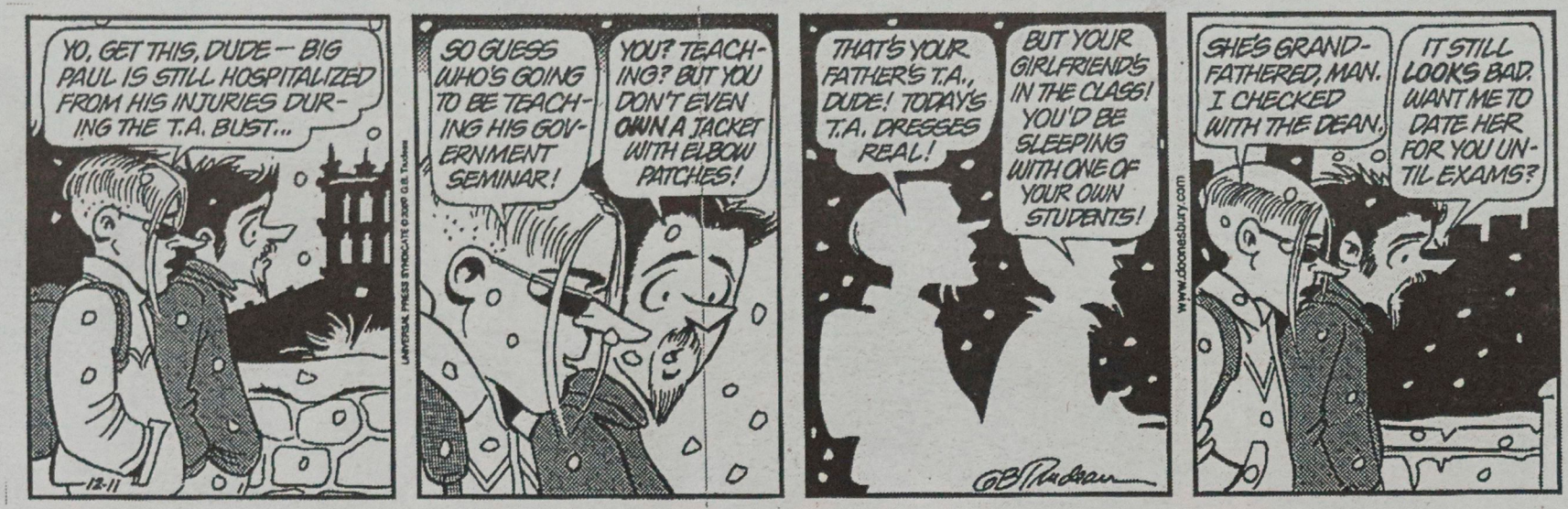
Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU


YO, GET THIS, DUDE — BIG PAUL IS STILL HOSPITALIZED FROM HIS INJURIES DURING THE T.A. BUST...
12-11
SO GUESS WHO'S GOING TO BE TEACHING HIS GOVERNMENT SEMINAR!
YOU? TEACHING? BUT YOU DON'T EVEN OWN A JACKET WITH ELBOW PATCHES!
THAT'S YOUR FATHER'S T.A., DUDE! TODAY'S T.A. DRESSES REAL!
BUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S IN THE CLASS! YOU'D BE SLEEPING WITH ONE OF YOUR OWN STUDENTS!
SHE'S GRANDFATHERED, MAN. I CHECKED WITH THE DEAN.
IT STILL LOOKS BAD. WANT ME TO DATE HER FOR YOU UNTIL EXAMS?
www.doonesbury.com
I'M AFRAID THE PROTEST WAS A BIT OF A BUST, BIG PAUL. THREE T.A.'S WERE HOSPITALIZED AND NINE WERE EXPELLED...
12-12
...MEANING A LOT OF CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.
WHAT A MESS!
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR GOVERNMENT CLASS, MY BOY JEFF HAS GOT YOUR BACK!
JEFF?
SO IS THIS "ELECTILE DYSFUNCTION," OR...
THERE BETTER BE A SLICE LEFT FOR ME!
dimples! pregnant! hanging chad
ALL IS GOOD, DUDE.
OKAY, IN ADDITION TO OUR WEEKLY PAPER, BIG PAUL WANTS US TO DISCUSS THE ELECTION...
12-13
HERE'S HOW I SEE IT: HAVING FAILED TO WIN THE POPULAR VOTE, IT LOOKS LIKE BUSH WILL NEED HIS FATHER'S ADVISERS, HIS BROTHER, THE FLORIDA SECRETARY OF STATE...
...THE ENTIRE FLORIDA COURT SYSTEM, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, A REPUBLICAN MOB, THE SUPREME COURT AND MAYBE THE U.S. CONGRESS TO WIN!
ANY DISCUSSION?
YEAH, CAN I BLOW OFF THE PAPER? I CAN'T THINK OF A TOPIC.
GRANTED. ANY OTHER COMMENTS?
OKAY, HERE'S THE DILEMMA AS I SEE IT— BUSH WON TECHNICALLY, BUT GORE WON LITERALLY.
solicitation electors
IT'S LIKE A GAME WITH BAD OFFICIATING, WITH THE OUTCOME HINGING ON A DISPUTED CALL...
BUSH WINS IF THE REF'S WORD IS FINAL, BUT WHAT IF AN INSTANT REPLAY SHOWS GORE WON? WHICH STANDARD DO WE USE?
ANY THOUGHTS?
12-14
UM... EXCUSE ME, DUDE, DIDN'T THE DEAN BAN SPORTS ANALOGIES?
NO, ONLY IN THE BIG LECTURE COURSES.
QUESTION, MAN— IT'S INDISPUTABLE THAT MORE PEOPLE IN FLORIDA INTENDED TO VOTE FOR GORE THAN FOR BUSH...
IF GORE WINS, THE NUMBERS WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, BUT IF BUSH WINS, WON'T THE LEGITIMACY OF HIS PRESIDENCY BE FOREVER IN DOUBT?
WELL, PEOPLE HAVE SHORT MEMORIES, BUT, YEAH, THERE COULD BE A LITTLE STINK ON IT.
"PRESIDENT" BUSH!
>SIGH...<
"PRESIDENT" BUSH!
MR. "PRESIDENT"!
12-15
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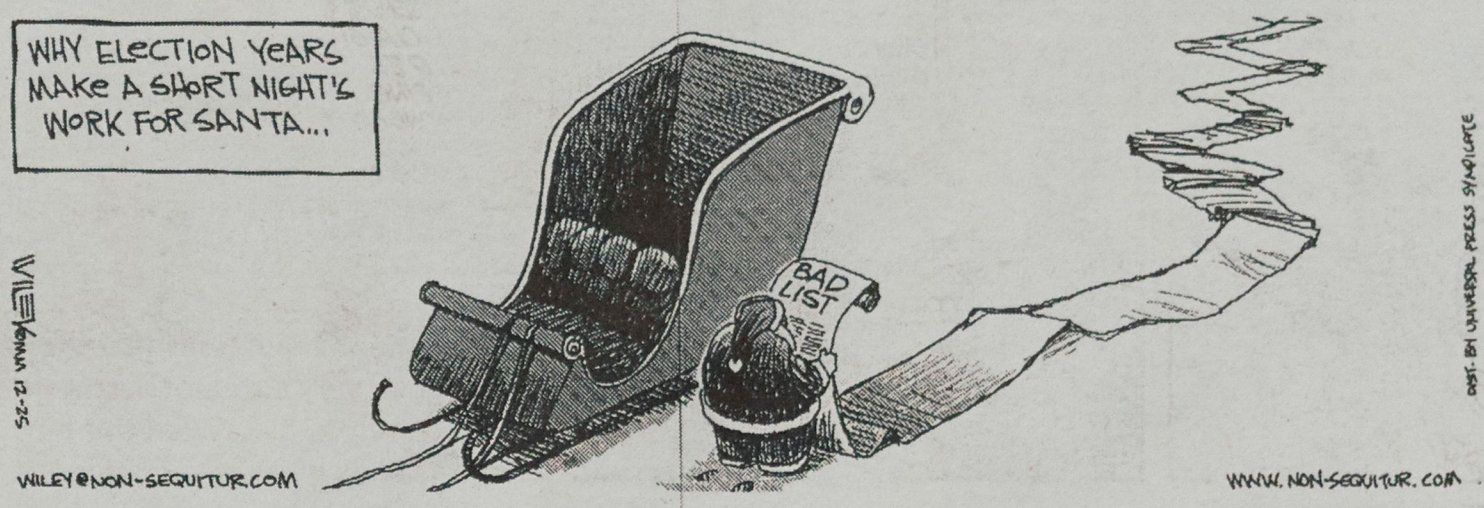

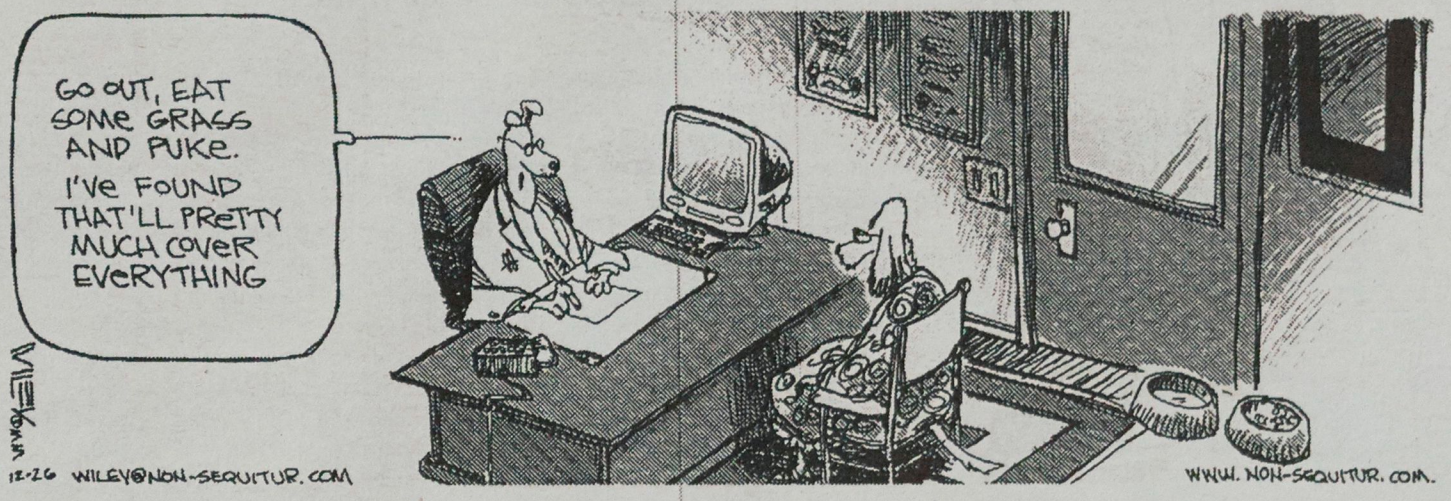

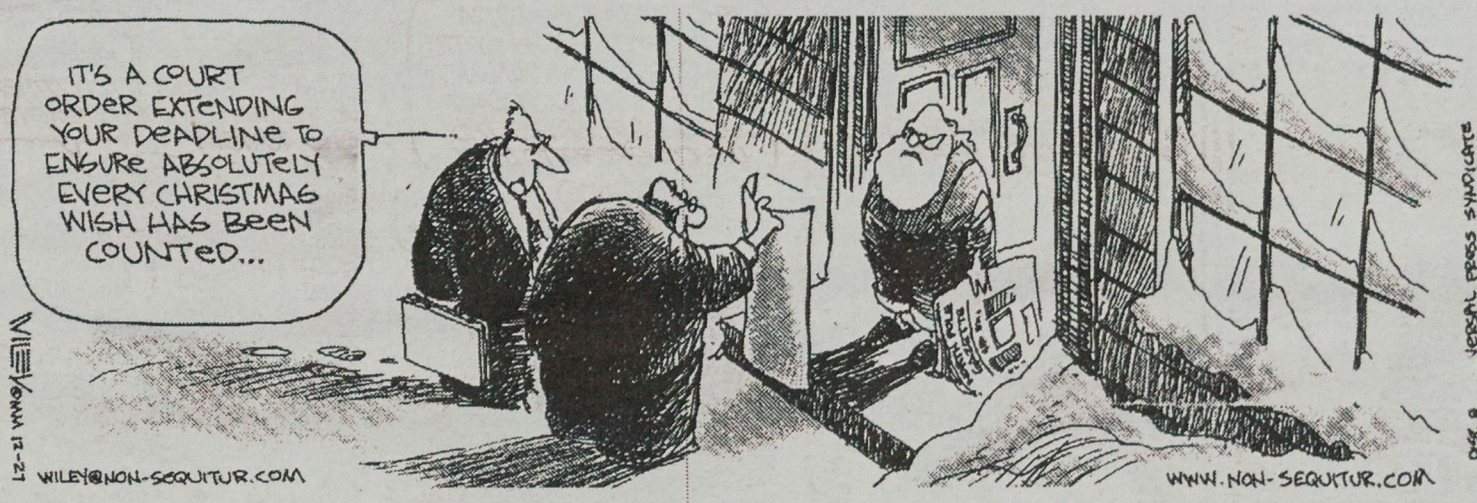
IT'S A COURT ORDER EXTENDING YOUR DEADLINE TO ENSURE ABSOLUTELY EVERY CHRISTMAS WISH HAS BEEN COUNTED...
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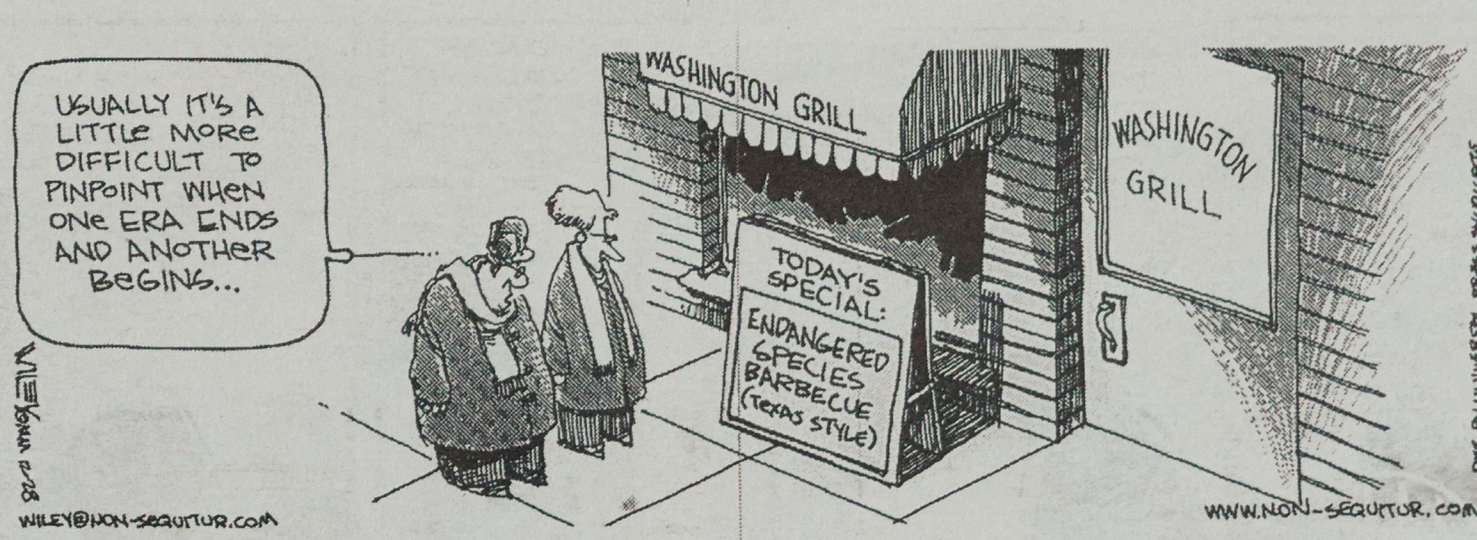

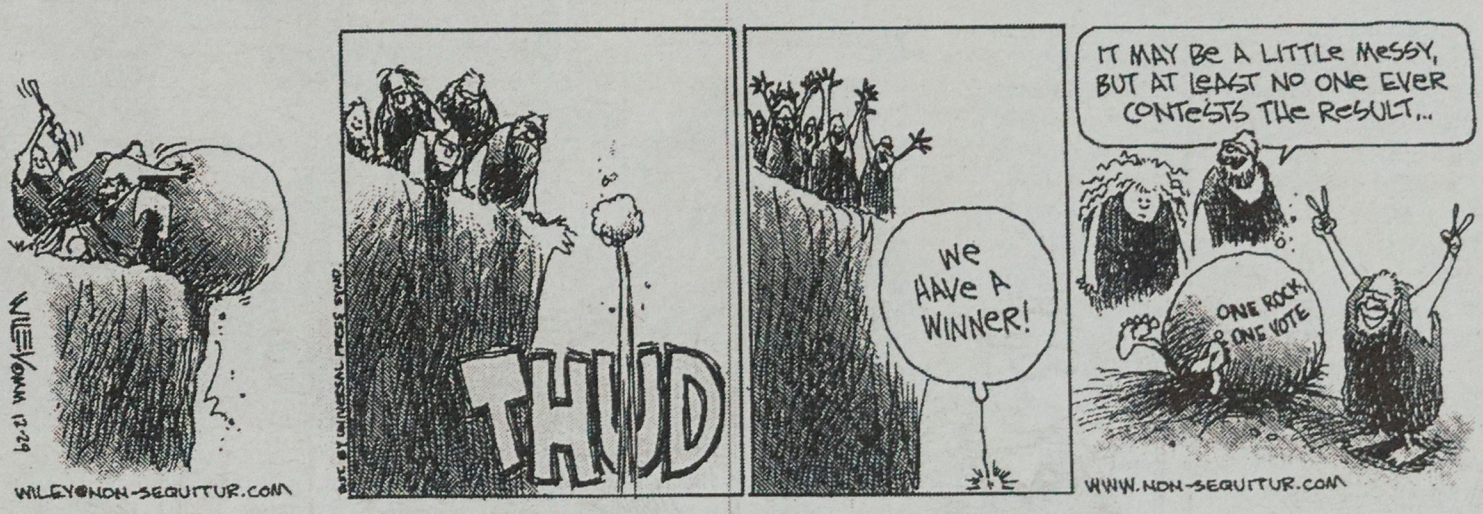
THUD
WE HAVE A WINNER!
IT MAY BE A LITTLE MESSY, BUT AT LEAST NO ONE EVER CONTESTS THE RESULT...
ONE ROCK, ONE VOTE
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Alex Westra

Peter Kalb of the Art History Department hosted a talk Jan. 16 to open the "Rudy Burkhardt and Friends" exhibit at the Museum of Art.

Burkhardt's circle captures New York

By Maura Whang
Arts Editor

The current headlining exhibit at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, "Rudy Burkhardt and Friends: New York Artists of the 1950s and '60s," running through March 18, focuses on the photography, films and other works of Rudy Burkhardt, an influential photographer, and his group of influential artist friends.

Burkhardt's work deals with New York during the '50s and '60s when these artists joined together with innovative ideas and concepts shaping the art world during these decades. Not only is Burkhardt's photographic work inspiring and beautiful, but so is the fact that he and so many influential artists of the time have numerous examples of fine collaborated work to show for. All artists, especially here at Middlebury College, should consider this composite approach to art.

Burkhardt's group of friends, who happened to be the most important artists conceptually during the '50s and '60s, included famous artists Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko and Alex Katz, to name a few. The exhibit showcases many photographs of these artists at work, taken by Burkhardt, a man who seemed not only interested in the inner workings of his fellow artists, but also in the processes by which these artists created their masterpieces. Many of his photographic shots focused solely on his friends' expressions, while others were composed of the artists in their studios diligently focusing on some task at hand, usually in the process of doing artwork themselves.

What impressed me the most was that these artists, despite their very different aesthetic styles, were so closely knit. . . . What this new group of artist-friends did was keep their minds, options and beliefs open, and the results were certainly worth it.

The photographs taken by Burkhardt are not the only pieces of artwork in the exhibit, however. His friends' artwork is also being showcased. Most of these artists are painters, some are poets, and their work is equally as striking as Burkhardt's photography. Upon reading the short blurbs next to each picture, there is a story to tell which adds depth to the entire exhibit. Often the works of art were the result of some sort of event singularly definitive of the time period.

What was most impressive was that these artists, despite their very different aesthetic styles, were so closely knit. Often artists will isolate themselves, building barricades to keep away from any outside forces. Unfortunately, these sorts of artists can become so caught up in their own work that they become unwilling to see and hear new ideas from colleagues in their field. What this new group of artist-friends did was keep their minds, options and beliefs open, and the results were certainly worth it. Burkhardt's photographs are testaments to this fact. These collaborations even resulted in poetry and films, the latter of which are part of the current exhibit.

From the pieces of art being shown a precedent should be set, calling for artists everywhere to acknowledge the benefits of artistic collaboration. When different mediums are used in works of art, it often makes for more interest, and so too will a conglomeration of different art forms in general.

Photography is not usually acknowledged in the same way painting is, but Burkhardt has created some superb examples of how working with artists of different mediums can turn out. Photography, painting, sculpture, music, film, literature and theater should be looked at in an interwoven way; it can only be beneficial to do so.

The Middlebury College Theatre Department shows promise in this sort of composite art, as often seen in numerous plays written, directed, acted and designed by so many different students. There could be more crossing over with the different departments here, however, such as in the art and English departments. It would be thrilling to be a part of a new group of artists

(see Photographs, page 22)

Informal improvisation lets jazz class swing free

By Kate DeForest
Arts Editor

On Jan. 31 of this year there occurred one of those daily secular miracles that life sometimes lays at our feet and says, "Here. Do with it what you will."

The offer laid out in such plain terms, without any marketing or advertising guile, was one I eagerly grasped, and like a child struggling to keep a rabbit from squirming away will try to explain before it slips from my memory, leaving only the faint imprint of the not-so-near past.

That Wednesday night I, like the rest of the 100-plus people in the audience, took a chair, parked on a tabletop or stood as the chairs and tables filled, and turned my face towards the stage in the McCullough social space.

However, it wasn't the sweaty pulse of dance music that we had congregated to hear, but rather the music of the likes of Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong. The informal performance of the Jazz Improvisation class, guided by the ineffable Cyrus Chestnut, was about to begin.

More than 20 musicians massed on the stage, miraculously falling into some sort of order as about half of them, instruments and drumsticks in hand, began to play. With clarity and a certain confidence the first notes of Dizzy Gillespie's classic "Night in Tunisia" drifted across the stage.

The Latin-inspired tune, an ambitious opening song, composed by the London native runs longer than 10 minutes and is as well known as "Salt Peanuts" which made a rather dubious appearance in the film "The Cable Guy."

However, the tune was molded into a unique showcase for the musicians, allowing them to infuse their own personal playing style into the melody.

This version, with scat vocals, meandered, as did many throughout the night, the focus traveling from player to player, spotlighting individual effort as well as maintaining a cohesive whole. Some outstanding viola and bass playing proved the group had laid their own claims on the tune, making it theirs for the night.

The tongue-in-cheek lyrics included the phrase "Freddie spaghetti," proving that jazz can still be serious music without being completely devoid of humor.

As Gillespie's melody came to a close, Chestnut walked up to the mike to address the audience, beaming and not without his characteristic half-shrug. Within the boyish smile that inspires so much trust, one gets the sense that there is a mind in which there is always music playing, where new thoughts dance instead of walk.

We were informed that a Davis standard, "All Blues," would be next in the program — with a slight twist — it would be an all-vocal version. Chestnut asked the members if he could "Get in on this," and joined the group in what he would call his "first scat performance."

Displaying exuberance, confidence mingled with a little uncertainty, velvet tones and some excellent bass, the group was clearly enjoying themselves as they sang one of the melodies that helped build a legend.

The class played three choice Davis tunes during this performance. "Freddie Freeloader," usually an instumental, was enlivened by the addition of lyrics, composed by members of the class. The tongue-in-cheek lyrics included the phrase "Freddie spaghetti," proving that jazz can still be serious music, without being completely devoid of humor.

Accoustic guitar was an unusual and pleasant addition to "So What," the final Davis song. The evening was also marked by an impressive piano solo. Taking all of the Davis songs into account, the class covered more than half of Davis' most popular and highly acclaimed LP "Kind of Blue."

The original album utilized Davis' trumpet, as well as piano, bass, drums, tenor and alto saxophone and drums. The addition of guitar, both electric and accoustic, was refreshing and illustrated just how much the addition or subtraction of an instrument can change the nature of a piece.

"All of Me," another standard,

(see McCullough, page 22)

Otterly hysterical

Eva Moller

Waving his arm and pumping his leg, *Jason Lemire '01 entertains the crowd of people gathered to watch the Otter Nonsense Players in Pearsons Lounge just before February Break.*

Ben Harper rocks, coming shows poised to stun Burlington

By Carl Larson
Staff Writer

After spending 26 straight hours in Johnson, I hooked a ride up to Burlington. Six inches of snow, a ditch and a tow truck later, we were at the Memorial. Despite sleep deprivation and our near-death experience en route, this show made our hardships negligible. Most college kids know Ben Harper. "Steal My Kisses," "Another Lonely Day," "Fight For Your Mind..." Sure. I thought I knew Ben Harper until I saw this show. My impression of Harper changed from a guy who sang a wide variety of catchy songs with good lyrics to a warm, humble showman with incredible musical talents.

My impression of Harper changed from a guy who sang a wide variety of catchy songs with good lyrics to a warm, humble showman with incredible musical talents.

A studio recording of Harper cannot begin to illustrate Harper's tremendous control over his musical vocabulary. Reggae turned into rock and then into blues. Bob Marley lyrics popped up amidst Harper's own "Excuse Me Mister." Acoustic strumming glided right into the roar of Harper's lap steel. I always thought lap steel guitar was supposed to be very hard to play, but it didn't appear to be for Harper.

I don't know what it was called, or if there was a name for it, but my favorite piece of the evening was an instrumental solo on lap steel. It sounded a lot like Zeppelin's "Black Mountain Side," but more amplified and Eastern...if you can picture that. There's no doubt that Harper had been listening to Led Zeppelin II when his encore bridged from "Faded" into "Whole Lotta Love" and back to "Faded."

Martin Whyte '03.5 is fairly certain that he was the only person in the crowd who anticipated this rockin' little trinket, and I believe him. He had seen Harper do the same encore in Montreal earlier this year. Whyte will travel quite a ways to see Harper.

He says that Harper's shows provide "a genuine insight into the soul of a brother whose complete song makes the chi run wild." He claims that "this makes for a nice tingly feeling if you are a feeling person." Right on, Martin.

The crowd was not made up entirely of college students like Whyte and me, although we were the majority. There was a surprisingly high number of young teenage girls, who I overheard swooning over Harper.

In the balcony there was a handful of middle-aged couples and even a few with young kids. Then there was Mike Gordon, Phish's bassist who stood in the back for a set and ate his chips without being bothered by a crowd who surely recognized him.

It would be unforgivable to ignore the fact that Harper wasn't the only one who made the chi run wild on Friday. His band was very big as well. "Burn One Down" featured Harper's percussionist, David Leach, straddling and wailing on an enormous drum.

Big bassist Juan Nelson kept the big notes coming and treated the crowd to a long and playful bass solo in the middle of "Steal My Kisses." I couldn't really see Dean Butterworth behind his big drum set, but it was pretty clear that someone was back there keeping the beats rolling.

From the minute we stepped foot into the Memorial to Harper's finale crowd surf, this show was an excellent way to end Winter Term. You may have missed it, but there are more great shows coming to our area...

Courtesy Photo
Spotlights and soulful grooves illuminate Ben Harper onstage at the Memorial in Burlington on Friday, Feb. 2.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Chris Smither
Friday, Feb.16, 8 p.m.
Valley Players Theater
Waitsfield, Vt.
Tickets and information
(802) 496-8910
$15

Brian McCurdy '03 gave me the best Secret Santa gift ever this year when he got me a ticket to see Chris Smither play at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Middlebury. I had no idea who he was when McCurdy gave me the ticket, but ever since the show, I have been putting the word out about this amazing man.

Here's what you must do: Go to your computer. Download "Winsome Smile" or "No Love Today." Feel guilty for cheating a hard working artist by downloading his music. Make up for it by buying a ticket to what is sure to be a great show.

You'll never hear him on top-40 radio and if that strikes you as a good thing, you must see his show. It is a one-man acoustic performance that ranges from folk, to blues to rock, and his words are more honest and meaningful than any musician I have ever heard. For more information, check out www.chrissmither.com. See you at the show.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Thursday, Feb. 22
Flynn Theater
Burlington, Vt.
www.flynncenter.org
$27-$33

I've heard mixed reviews for Paul Simon's latest album, but I am forever grateful to him for introducing me and most of the world to this amazing group of musicians. Ladysmith Black Mambazo is the group of 10 South African vocalists who helped make Simon's album "Graceland" sell over 10 million copies over the past 13 years. Since their launch into world stardom, Ladysmith has performed with the Steppenwolf Theater Company and has recorded tracks for numerous film scores, as well as made ads for LifeSavers. The traditional music they sing is called Isicathamiya. It comes from a deep tradition started by mining camps in South Africa and has become a very important part of South African culture.

In their early years, Ladysmith competed with other groups around their country and became so notoriously unbeatable that some competitions barred their participation. This unbeatable troupe has been touring and performing all over the world ever since.

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City Ballet falls short of tradition

By Elizabeth Logue
Associate Editor

In a literal sense, the dancers at New York City Ballet are falling short – unlike Balanchine's preference for tall, dainty ballet dancers, Peter Martins's obvious preference is for a shorter, more powerful generation of dancers. It's an interesting contrast, and for the most part, it seems to be working well.

Of course, it's changed the dynamic of the company quite a bit. I remember thinking to myself during a performance of Balanchine's "La Source," in an only half-joking manner, that the principal dancers are only principal dancers because they are so much taller than everyone else.

My initial impression of a company like City Ballet is that all those invited to join would have at least the potential to rise to the top as a principal dancer.

Seriously, though, the stature of the dancers at City Ballet is really not what seized my attention the other evening during a performance of "La Source" and "2 & 3 Part Inventions," both with minimalist choreography and, not surprisingly, both Balanchine and Robbins ballets respectively.

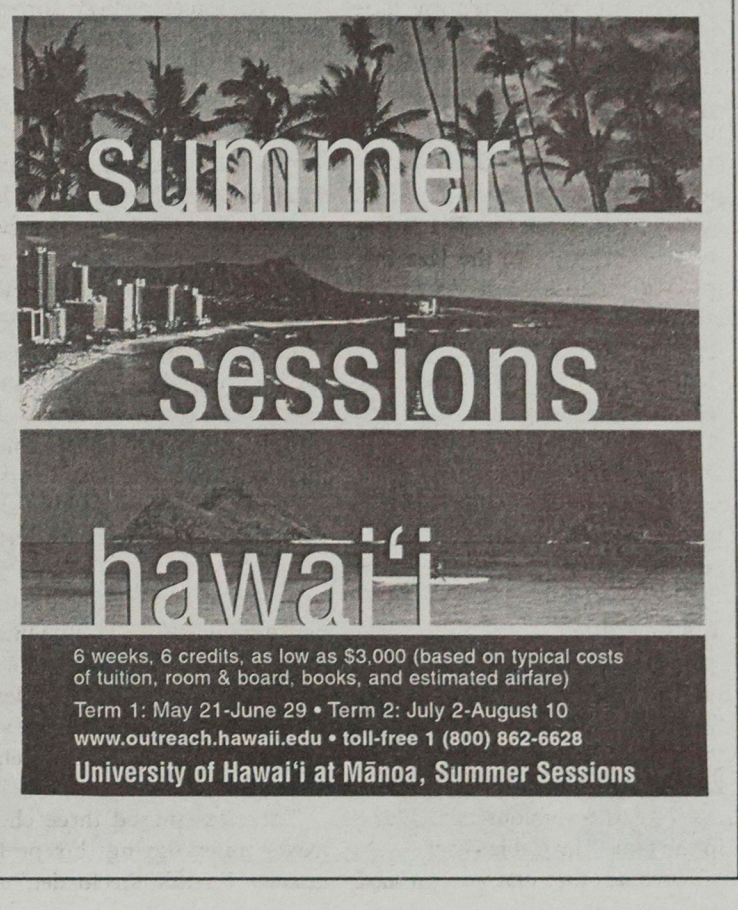
It was the lack of polish and the all-too-frequent fumble by various corps dancers that distracted me from the otherwise hearty performance.

It should be noted that there is a wide range of talent within the corps de ballet. There are dancers like Abi Stafford and Ashley Bouder, both of whom debuted at State Theater within the last year, and both of whom are projected to be at long-standing legends within City Ballet. The audience loves them, the critics love them and obviously Martins loves them because the two cannot seem to get enough featured roles this winter season. Sadly, though, there is a conspicuous presence of dancers who are lacking technically and in some cases, seem to completely break free of the ballet dancer mold, and that's something that will ultimately hurt the company's reputation.

My initial impression of a company like City Ballet is that all those invited to join would have at least the potential to rise to the top as a principal dancer.

Granted, there are only a handful that accomplish enough in their career to carry them to the pinnacle of City Ballet. But one likes to think, or at least I like to think, that when Martins and his cohorts sit as auditioners in the audience of the School of Ameri-

(see City, page 23)



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Photographs, paintings focus on '50s and '60s

(continued from page 20)

that could go on to define the art and portrayal of a generation. Burkhardt and his friends certainly helped to mold art in the '50s and '60s into what we perceive it as today.

To focus again on Burkhardt's photography itself, Burkhardt is not only skilled technically, but his works are aesthetically pleasing. Too often, the general public holds the idea that photography is a rather simple art, comprised of simply pointing and shooting a camera. I suppose that this is due to the fact that the best of photographers make it look easy, while the entire artistic, creative and chemical processes are hidden from the public eye.

Burkhardt makes his art look simple, and each picture seems to be even more clear than the last. His composition is excellent, as he balances out lighting, form and subject. He took many shots of New York City street scenes and skylines, and was successful in being one of the first photographers to combine people and buildings in his prints. By placing ordinary city-goers alongside the skyscrapers of New York, Burkhardt seems to have made a huge statement on his views of people. Despite our physical size, we can hold our own among the "towers" in this world.

In one photographic series, "Sidewalk," Burkhardt focuses on the feet and expressions of people walking down the street. From such a simple pictoral concept, he manages to capture the busy and stressed, yet somehow pleasant feelings of these New Yorkers. I wonder what he would have to say about today's sidewalkers.

Equally impressive is his ability to capture juxtaposed shapes in his photographs. He sucessfully combines curves and angles, shades of gray and large and small objects in his pictures.

This exhibit provokes just the right amount of nostalgia, or desire for those who have never been, to go down and visit the Big Apple. Although taken during the '50s and '60s, the scenes that Burkhardt has shot are truly representative of the moods of the city; they are busy yet simple, dark yet hopeful.

By placing ordinary city-goers alongside the skyscrapers of New York, Burkhardt seems to have made a huge statement on his views of people.

It should be noted that the curators of the exhibit were Lynn Gumpert and Vincent Katz, son of featured painter Alex Katz. Vincent, who is affiliated with the New York University Museum of Art, is also a poet and art critic himself.

When the show opened several weeks ago, on Jan. 16, Visiting Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture Peter Kalb spoke at a gallery talk and opening reception held at the museum. The exhibit seems to be generating positive feedback and interest from those who have been to see the show. Hopefully, more members of the Middlebury community will recognize the significance and excellence of Burkhardt's work and go to see the show.

...the scenes that Burkhardt has shot on his camera are truly representative of the moods of the city; they are busy yet simple, dark yet hopeful.

The exhibit will be running through March 18 at the Museum of Art. Several short films made by Burkhardt and some of his friends are part of the exhibit as well. Although they were turned off at the time I viewed the exhibit, there will be a screening of these works Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"Rudy Burkhardt and Friends: New York Artists of the 1950s and '60s" is well worth the trip down to the Museum of Art. The exhibit should be looked at and considered with focus on the talent and importance of this photographer and his colleagues. They were a group of artists who certainly helped to shape New York City as one of the world's finest centers for the arts.

Horn calls

Eric Skovsted

Filling the Center for the Arts Concert Hall with the sounds of horns and strings, *members of sophomore Stephanie Savell's French Horn 500 project played on the last Thursday of Winter Term.*

McCullough jumped as jazz jam grooved

(continued from page 20)

was done by a piano/drums/bass trio in order to give the bass man a little more play. A little hesitant at first, the trio soon picked up speed, gaining momentum from some confident piano playing, a little encouragement from Chestnut and a lot of clapping, hooting and whistling from the audience.

Mistakes had been made, of course, but they were the gallant mistakes of experimentation, without which the greater notes may have never come.

A little hesitant at first, the trio soon picked up momentum from some confident piano playing, a little encouragement from Chestnut and a lot of clapping, hooting and whistling from the audience.

Vocals were spotlighted in the next song, "You Go to My Head." Velvet-smooth vocals complimented softly brushed high-hat, blended with the stylings of Chestnut himself on piano.

A few songs later, the final piece, "Watermelon Roll," was preceded by an invitation to "Get up and dance!" and though no one took up the invitation, I'm sure many, like myself, were left wishing they had the courage to follow their instincts and get their butts out of their chairs.

Ah, but what about the miracle? The personal miracle was regaining a bit of my childhood, the part that re-emerges every so often during a performance.

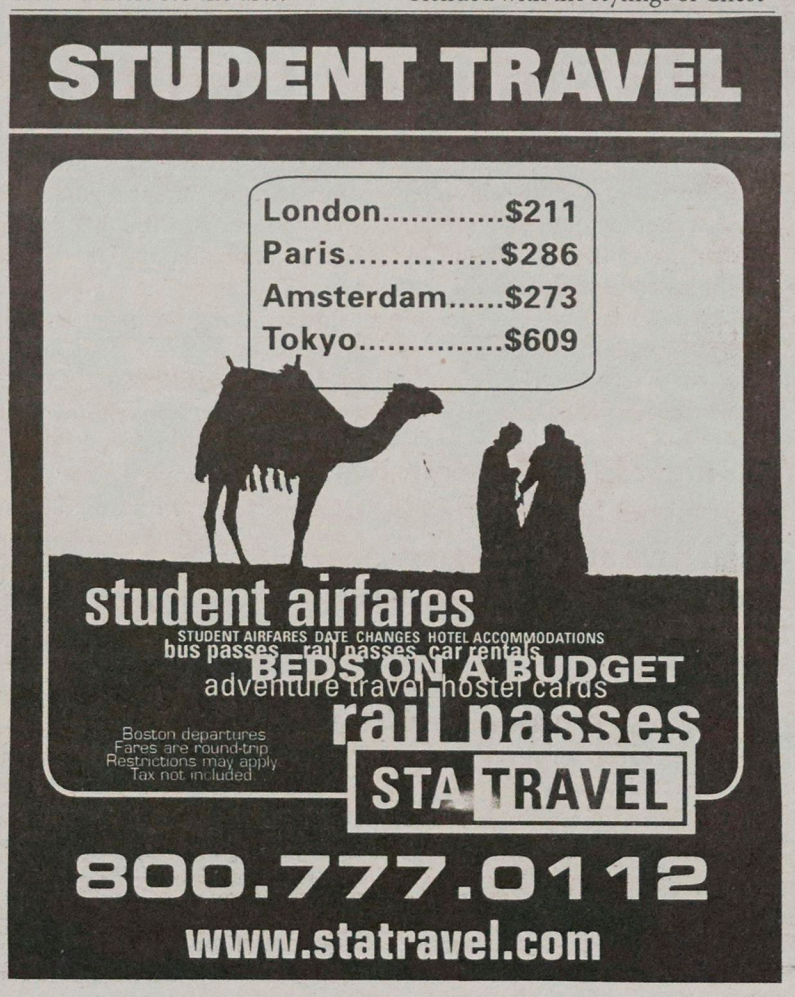
I suddenly wanted to pick up a clarinet, drumsticks, lift the lid of a piano—anything to make some noise. I had become, for an instant, the child who thinks she can do anything and who wants to do everything.

That is the power music has to create that feeling of the affirmative and resounding "Yes!" The Winter Term Jazz Improvisation class presented their music with great honesty and an exuberance that is seldom found in formal presentations.

The performance overall was a comprehensive survey of some of the best jazz written to date. They pulled out the big guns with Gillespie, Miles and Armstrong, and still managed to hit their target under the weight of the reverence and sense of tradition even uttering those names can bring upon the shoulders of a performance.

Taking into consideration the musicians' youth, especially those untempered by experience, the music produced was extraordinary.

I was impressed by their technique and their training but I was moved by the music they had made their own, giving themselves, along with the notes they played, to the audience.



City Ballet selection process raises questions on company potential

(continued from page 21)

can Ballet's (SAB) spring dance workshop, that they are choosing dancers that could conceivably make names for themselves as dancers with City Ballet. Apparently they are not.

There are numerous dancers in the program (dancing fervently this winter season) that do not have the potential to make it to the top. And if they did perchance rise to the rank of a principal dancer, the company's reputation would undoubtedly be compromised.

It's an important observation to make: there are technical wizards pirouetting their way around SAB, so it's a little disconcerting that in some cases they are being snatched up by other companies. It should also be emphasized that there are certainly many more corps de ballet dancers with obvious potential than those without it.

But again, it makes for an unbalanced performance if you have technicians like Stafford and Bouder mixed in with those who are significantly weaker.

With these discrepancies of ability, more care needs to be taken in the casting of a ballet such as "Le Tombeau de Couperin," an all corps de ballet piece. With no lead dancer, "Le Tombeau" must stand on its own as a ballet with capable dancers, both male and female. A ballet like this, especially, should contain the strongest corps de ballet dancers for the purpose of consistency. Choreographed in diamond, square and diagonal formations, the ballet requires utmost precision in order for the audience to appreciate it. Instead, because of the uneven technical ability, and, in the case of some dancers, artistic ability, the ballet showcased some dancers more than others.

With these discrepancies of ability, more care needs to be taken in the casting of a ballet such as "Le Tombeau de Couperin," an all corps de ballet piece.

Carrie Lee Riggins, a corps de ballet member with exceptional technical ability, has found herself dancing demi-soloist and feature roles throughout the season.

She was a standout in "Le Tombeau," for her technique and strong stage presence making the other dancers in her area of the stage seem relatively inexperienced.

There is a reason that soloists and principal dancers do not dance in the corps de ballet: they have gained enough artistic experience as individual dancers that it is difficult to return them to the anonymity of the corps.

Of course, Riggins is a corps de ballet member, but the same principal applies to her dancing experience.

It was a similar occurrence in "2 & 3 Part Inventions," when Alexandra Ansanelli, a soloist, was cast as the lead. Without a set and minimal costumes (the dancers wore leotards) "2 & 3 Part Inventions," needs to prosper through strong technical skill. Ansanelli's role as the lead in the ballet was heightened, in my opinion, not because Robbins choreographed it as such, but because she was so much more technically able than the other dancers she was cast with. Some of her fellow dancers, all corps members with the exception of soloist Benjamin Millepied, who played the male lead, danced as though they were still students.

That should come as no surprise, given that most of them are new company members, and have only recently finished at SAB. These details, while perhaps not apparent to most audience members, are noted by the critics, the season ticket holders and those who have had formal dance training.

Certainly with better casting the discrepancies within the corps might not be as noticeable. I only hope that Martins is doing his job to uphold the Balanchine tradition within City Ballet by inviting only the best of the best to dance with the company.

Martins has certainly taken heat in recent years by some critics and ballet-lovers for not tending to the traditions of the older ballets, and the last thing he wants to do is allow the company to falter unnecessarily under the gaze of so many eyes.

As Balanchine once said, after all, "the dancers are the instruments on which choreographer plays."

I'm in agreement with Mr. B, so I will venture to say that sub-par "instruments" will not only make for unsuccessful revival of the old, but will also restrict the choreographic possibilities of those still creating ballets.

This Week...

Movies

Rudy Burkhardt film screening
February 17, 2001
3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dana Auditorium

Music

Mike Podwal and DBQ
February 15, 2001
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
The Grille

Scott Hendricks, baritone
February 17, 2001
8 p.m.
Center for the Arts, Concert Hall

Anais Mitchell
February 18, 2001
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
The Grille

Mario Sotelino
February 20, 2001
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
The Grille

Mark Lavoie
February 21, 2001
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
The Grille

Theatre

The Vagina Monologues
February 14, 2001
8 p.m.
McCullough
Tickets on sale at 5 p.m.

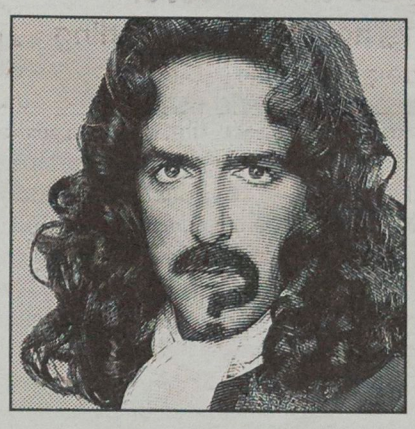
The Possibilities
February 16, 17, 18
8 p.m.
Hepburn Zoo

In Burlington

Ronald K. Brown Evidence
February 16, 2001
8 p.m.
Flynn Theater Mainstage

George Carlin
February 17, 2001
7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Flynn Theater Mainstage

Mili Bermejo Sextet
February 17, 2001
8 p.m.
Flynn Theater FlynnSpace



The Question Marquis™

Ask the Question Marquis is a sporadically produced advice column, because proper loving takes time. It is to be read with a silly French accent. The views of the Question Marquis are his alone and are in no way to be construed as representative of his sponsor, Questia, you American pigs.

www.questia.com

Ask the Question Marquis

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: My girlfriend seems distant lately. And I can't get her to take off her sunglasses. I wonder if she's seeing someone else. What should I say to her? – Paul in Dallas*

A: Ah, mon ami. I think I can help you with this. Your female is probably feeling that you spend more time with the library than with her delicate, sensuous frame. (I am making the assumptions about her, but for your sake, I hope that I am right, you know?) But you are having many of the research papers, correct? So you have two options to send you on the path toward a satisfactory loving scenario.

Option 1. When you are writing the research papers, you can save time by going to questia.com. Listen, this is brand new. You can skip all of the tedious working, because the full text of the books and journal articles is all online. Search for the keywords, highlight the text. Also, you are not going to believe this, but if you want to quote something, you just click a button and Questia puts it in your paper, footnotes it, and *formats the bibliography automatically.* And right now you can get two days* of Questia free. So try it. When your girlfriend sees how much better your papers become and how much more time you have for her, she will be looking at you with her naked eyes that seem to say, "Hallo. I like you. Much, much more than I like pâté de fois gras," or whatever it is these girls like now.

Option 2. You can challenge her to a duel.

Also, what are sunglasses?

"It is the joke of an imbecile who longs to have my knowledge and looks. Challenge the pig to a duel."

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: My friend sent me this photo. I don't get it. Is it a joke, or is it some deeper commentary on the effect of technology on culture? – Cosmo in Grand Rapids*

A: It is the joke of an imbecile who longs to have my knowledge and looks. Challenge the pig to a duel.

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: How come you know about computers and dot.coms, but you've never heard of sunglasses? – Michelle in Boston*

A: Oh, sunglasses. Of course I know sunglasses. I thought you said "St. Molasses." I am not familiar with that one. The patron saint of sorghum? What?

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Sex is X-factor for XFL

By Daniel Prepas
Staff Writer

The XFL has finally arrived, and is causing quite a buzz in the sports-world. Many of the "respectable" and well-known sports journalists have responded to the new football league as a bunch of ridicuolous and extraneous gimmicks surrounding mediocre football. They may have a point seeing as though most of the players in the league, such as Rashaam Sallam and Tommy Maddox, were former NFL players who couldn't make the grade.

As a die-hard football fan myself, I can appreciate a lot of what the XFL is and if it survive, what it always will have: FOOTBALL. Those who truly appreciate football will see that while the XFL has a whole bunch of unecessary hoopla and crap, the football is not that bad.

One of my friends recently attended a game at the LA colosium, to which I initially responded "why?" He explained that LA has not had a football team in years, and they've been dying for one ever since the Rams and Raiders left. That combined with the extensive advertsing, media exposure, and backing by a major television network, NBC, is what gives the XFL more of a chance to succeed than such leagues as the Arena Football League.

Still, why would any real sports fan watch it? After all, does this league deserve as much attention as the NFL? Take a few things into consideration. With all of the money in free-agency in the NFL, players become more concerned with their well-being and contracts than their team. For that matter, it is intriguing that teams earn $100,000 for a win with no one player getting more than $50,000.

That, in addition to players hoping to get back in the NFL, makes it seem that the play would be inspired. In the eyes of the Vince Mcmahon, the founder of the league and the WWF, the half-naked cheerleaders, on the field cameras, and players choice of names on their jersey's resulting in pathetic phrases like, "He Hate Me", is what he's counting on to make this league continue to garner great ratings.

There is no way that these up-close cameras and tough-talking announcers can help this league stick. Most of the XFL's gimmicks are a waste of time and just take away from the football. Nothing was more evident than when an on the field reporter tried to ask the Orlando coach a question with false enthusiam, to which the coach totally ignored him.

The XFL still might have some staying power. The heads of the XFL review the games each week and can change the rules very easily. And with a watchful eye on the ratings, you can bet that the XFL will keep its fans thoroughly entertained. If the football gets worse, we'll probably see new incentives like every player to score a touchdown gets a lapdance from a cheerleader. In sports like wrestling and football, nothing sells better than sex appeal. Besides, I'd like one person, ok one guy, to say to me that he is not going to attend or watch an XFL game after he finds out that they employ strippers to sit in hot tubs in the stands.

Women swimmers surge to postseason

By Shannon Egan
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 3, the swimming and diving teams hosted the Middlebury Invitational, a championship-style meet, to which they invited three other teams: St. Michael's, Norwich and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

In their final home meet of the season, both the women's and men's teams were victorious. On the women's side, Middlebury finished with 571 points, with its closest competitor, MIT, finishing with 447 points. St. Michael's and Norwich scored 249 and 124 points, respectively.

> Watching [Erin and Megan] swim such exciting races in their last meet was inspiring to all of us. They certainly will be missed.
>
> — Captain Susan Shepard '01

While the women won 13 of 17 events, there was something else that made the meet special. Not only was it the final competition for 12 women on the team, two of whom are seniors, but also it was the last time the seniors swam in their own pool. They were honored in a ceremony at the beginning of the meet.

For the 12 Panther women who rested, or "tapered", for this championship meet, their season couldn't have ended on a better note. Personal best times were seen all around, and the enthusiasm and excitement in the air could not be described.

The first-year swimmers, in their final meet, shined from the very beginning. Emily Thaler '04 had, what coach Peter Solomon described, "the perfect meet." She placed second overall in the 1000-yard freestyle, in a time of 12:16.62. Later in the day, she swam the 500-yard freestyle, also placing second with a season best time of 5:40.25.

She was followed close behind in the 500-yard freestyle by fellow first-years Cragin Brown and Kate Merritt, placing third and fourth in time of 5:42.99 and 5:49.50, respectively.

Carolyn Kormann '04 had an impressive championship meet as well. Her time of 1:04.85 in the 100-yard butterfly earned her a fourth place finish, as did her time of 29.35 in the 50-yard butterfly. On the diving board, Juliana Muir '04 placed third with a score of 1:44.55 in the first one-meter round, and 148.10 in the second.

For the tapered sophomores, the season came to a nice close as well. Jennifer Watters '03 earned herself a position on the New England team with a time of 26.08 (seventh place) in the 50-yard freestyle. Karen Johnson, also in the 50 free, finished with a 28.27 in the 50-yard freestyle, and a 1:01.95 in the 100-yard freestyle, both fantastic times for her this season.

Finally, Jenn Schultz '03, just back from illness, had to be pleased with her sixth place finish in the 50-yard backstroke in a time of 32.68 seconds.

And then there were the seniors. Co-captains Erin Sussman and Meegan Moszynski swam for their last time as Panthers. Both remarkable personalities have had a huge impact on the team over their four years at Middlebury. They did not, however, end their careers without leaving their marks.

Sussman swam season best times of 29.16 in the 50-yard freestyle and 1:04.54 in the 100-yard freestyle. Moszynski finished with personal bests of 36.26 in the 50-yard breaststroke, 1:18.69 in the 100 yard breaststroke and 2:48.23 in the 200-yard individual medley, rounding out a great career.

"It was such a great way for Erin and Meegan to end their careers," said Susan Shepard '01. "Watching them swim such exciting races in their last meet was inspiring to all of us. They will certainly be missed."

For the 24 women who did not end their season last Saturday, this coming weekend will mark their championship meet. The women will be heading to Wesleyan University for the NESCAC Championships, which run from Feb. 16 through 18.

Hanley leads women's hoops to NESCACs

(continued from page 28)

record at Pepin. Hanley's strong games all week helped to earn her NESCAC player of week honors for the first time this season and second time in her short career. She averaged 21.6 points and 9.3 rebounds as the Panther won two of three games and kept themselves in the hunt for the NESCAC crown.

The rest of the regular season will include two non-conference games during this week and then a big game this Saturday at Williams. The non-conference games against Clarkson and Colby-Sawyer should be wins and lead them into a match-up will rival Williams. The game against the Purple Cows will determine the Panthers seeded in the NESCAC tournament. A win and the team will have the fifth seed and travel to Bates again next Tuesday. A loss and the team will be seeded sixth and could face either Amherst, Bowdoin or Colby who all defeated the Panthers this season.

But there are other factors at stake in this week's games, "Depending on how we come out of these games, it will affect our attitude going into NESCAC's," Hyatt said. In the NESCAC tourney the team will likely face teams that have beaten them this season. All four teams ahead in the NESCAC have beaten the Panthers and one of them will host the tournament. "The tourney is about redemption. Our league record doesn't show what we can do....we're not going to walk in there scared," Lowell said.

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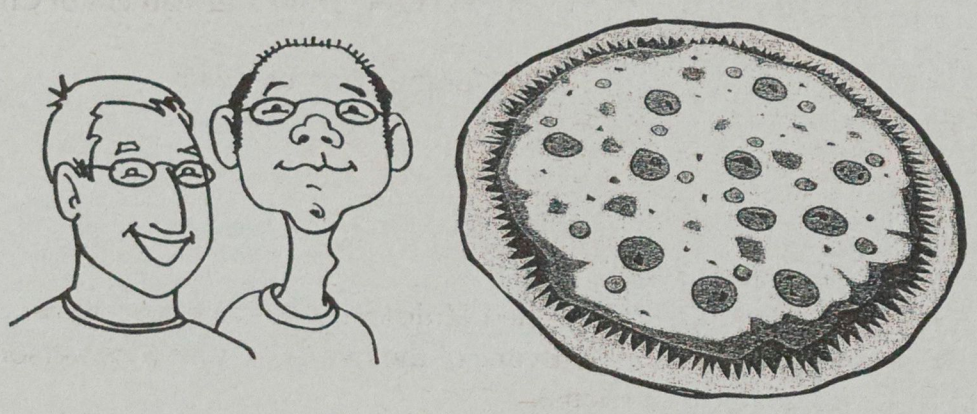

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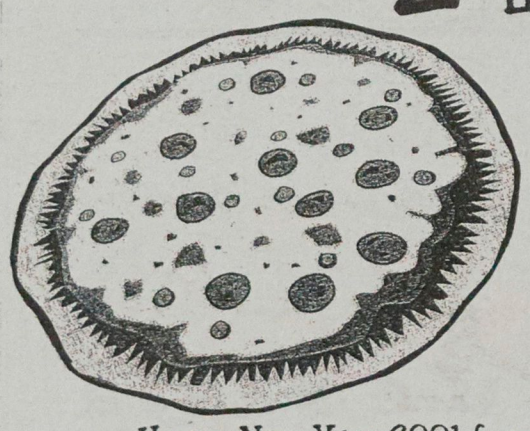

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Men's senior swimmers bid farewell

By Adam Nadeau
Staff Writer

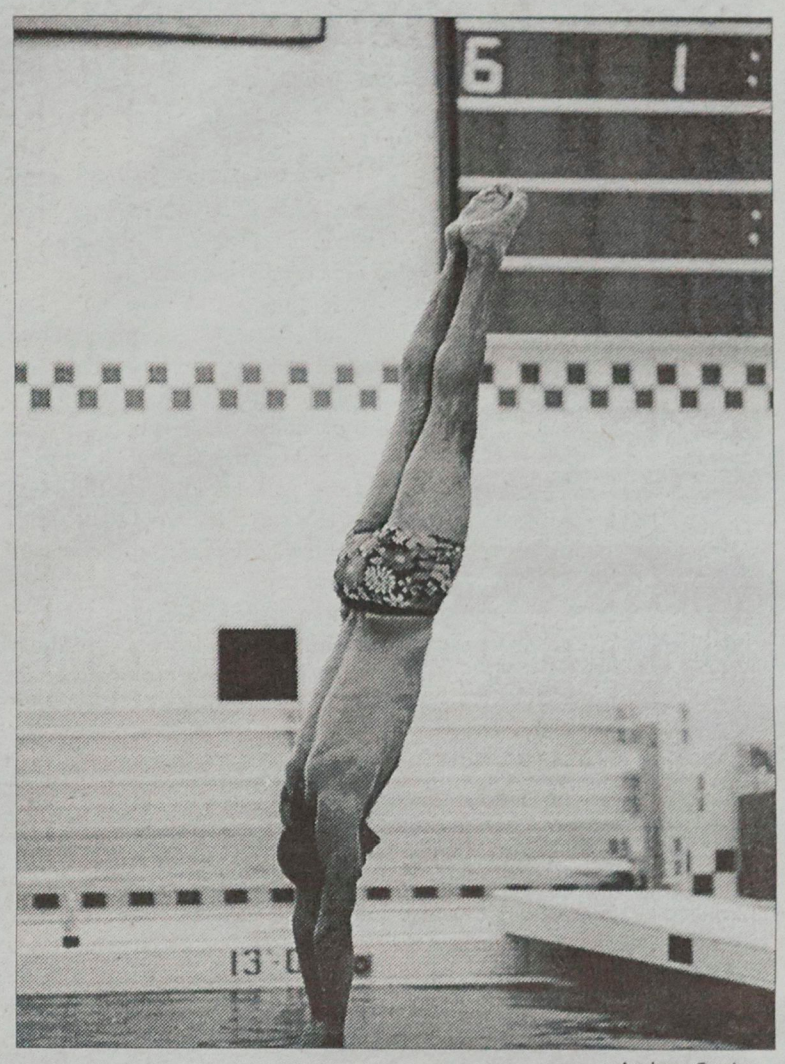
As most students flocked to greener pastures over February Break, the men's swimming team remained on campus to prepare for the upcoming NESCAC championships at Bowdoin in two weeks. They also faced Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Norwichhand St. Michael's College in the inaugural Middlebury Invitational. In the final home meet for the four seniors, the Panthers emerged with both a solid victory and needed momentum for the rest of the season.

The highlight of the meet was undoubtedly the return of Grayson Stuntz '02 from his Scottish vacation, as he emerged to win three individual events: the 50 butterfly, 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly. Stuntz hopes to repeat as NESCAC swimmer of the year, and everyone is actively anticipating a sequel to the infamous "Nicole Donovan" victory speech of last year. Apart from Stuntz, many team members swam well, taking both the freestyle and medley relays and limiting MIT and the Vermont schools to two victories among the 17 events swam. As Andy Boyce '02 commented, "This meet was a testament to the depth of our team. I think I'm going to cry."

> **[The Middlebury Invitational] was a testament to the depth of our team. I think I'm going to cry.**
>
> **— Andy Boyce '02**

Also of note, though, is the final competition in the Middlebury pool of the four seniors: Bill Allen, Adam Nadeau, John Robertson and Sam Rowley. Though lacking in numbers, the class has been a part of Middlebury swimming's most successful four years in its history, and their departure will no doubt reverberate throughout NCAA swimming circles. As first-year Charlie Evans reminisced, "I already miss them, and Bill's standing right next to me."

The men's team will travel to Wesleyan this coming weekend, and they hope to improve on their second-place finish last season.



Andrew Corrigan

Derek Chicarilli '02 completes a dive during swimming practice on Monday afternoon in the Middlebury College natatorium.

Ski team stretchs as finish line nears

(continued from page 28)

then proceeded to better her first race of the year by finishing ninth in the slalom. She said of her sudden success at UVM, "I've been battling a nagging knee problem and I started slow, but I think I'm skiing better now."

Dartmouth was where Middlebury made their collective move. The women again especially asserted their presence. On Dartmouth's home slope the Middlebury women beat up on the powerhouse host to the tune of 175 points to 170. Pike-Sprenger again was at the head of the pack. The talented first-year stepped it up a level from the week before to finish seventh in the GS and 11th in the slalom.

Laura Scripture '04 was the female version of Eric Rygg '03, playing the consistent role with an eighth and a ninth in the GS and slalom respectively. Also Brophy contributed with a sixth in the GS, an event the Midd women skied very well at Dartmouth.

The men were no less impressive. In the GS a laundry list of Middlebury racers garnered points. Rygg, Conrad, Emich IV and Coriell all finished in the top 13.

Chad McConathy also was in second place after the first run, but failed to finish his final run. In ski racing the order in which the racers finish is reversed. So the person who came in 30th the first run will be the lead racer on the second run while the winner of the first run races last. This is done to level the playing field in a sense, but it often leaves skiers like McConathy with a great deal of pressure and very poor conditions come the end of the race. Nevertheless, the JV soccer standout and first-year out of Vail proved his valor as he continues to battle an injury.

Rygg spoke to the progression of the men's results throughout the season. "It takes just a couple of good races and then the snowball effect kicks in, your confidence is up and the results come." Rygg also had a blistering second run, third fastest among all racers the second time down. He said, "Dartmouth was not a very friendly course. It was short and flat and favored those who can ride a flat ski. I was upset at my first run so I looked past all that and just skied aggressively. I wanted to do better." Rygg did that and more, getting his highest finish in a race this year.

Next week a maturing Middlebury alpine ski team will head down state to the Williams carnival. If last week's results hold true to form, look for Middlebury to continue to ascend the rankings. Middlebury will then come to the Snow Bowl both for Winter Carnival and NCAAs.

Pike-Sprenger said of the team's attitude towards the end of the season, "UVM has brought it all year, pushing us. We got off to a late start but the whole team is hungry for it and everyone is starting to step up."

ECAC wins piling up at right time for hockey

(continued from page 27)

girls on our team to contribute to the scoring, regardless of being on offense or defense."

Middlebury's games this weekend will determine the Panthers' postseason fate. The team hosts RPI on Friday at 7 p.m., and will take on UVM at Kenyon Arena on Saturday, also at 7 p.m. Middlebury will face a tough team in RPI and will have to be careful not to overlook the visiting Engineers. "RPI has always been a strong team," stated Labbe, "so that game will be very competitive."

With Middlebury and UVM holding down first and second place in the ECAC D-III league, the match will be possibly the Panthers most important game of the regular season. The Catamounts have been playing excellent defensive hockey all season, having allowed just eight goals in league play this season; their strength in their own zone will present a huge challenge for the Panthers this weekend. However, the team is looking forward to the challenge and hopes for great crowd support against their rivals from up Route 7.

Said Labbe, "We are extremely excited. There is no better way to end the regular season then by playing UVM at home on a Saturday night. They have had a great season so far... so we will definitely have to bring our 'A-game' in order to take away a win. This should be a great weekend of

DECISION 2001

The 2001 Middlebury College Inter-Campus Debates

Resolved: The American presidential election system is broken and needs to be fixed.

Cash Prizes for Winning Arguments:

$200 for each winning team that emerges from each Commons

$500 for each of two teams emerging from Tournament of Champions

$1000 for the Winning Team

Requirements:

- Participants must be enrolled Middlebury College students.
- Teams must identify with one of the five Commons (one person must belong to designated Commons).
- Commons will hold internal debates during February.
- Tournament of Champions (debates between winning team from each Commons) - Saturday, March 3rd, 10:00am – 4:00pm, Bicentennial Hall.
- Final Public Debate (two winning teams from Tournament of Champions) - Thursday, March 8th, 7:30pm, Bicentennial Hall, Room 216.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Further information is available in the Commons Offices

Participate & Have FUN!!

Senior laden team faces final hurdle

By Ben Dow
Staff Writer

The men's basketball squad pulled back up to the .500 mark after a very up and down February Break. The team loaded the bus for a road trip to Connecticut early in the break, losing to Connecticut College on Feb. 2, 78-74,

Men's Basketball

Tuesday, February 13th

Middlebury	69
Colby-Sawyer	83

Saturday, February 10th

Tufts	71
Middlebury	76

and then to Wesleyan the next day, 80-74.

On Feb. 6 the team's trip to Hamilton College was even less successful than it was scenic, which isn't saying much. The team lost a close one, 70-68. The homestand on the ninth and 10th is where things turned around, with the Panthers housing Bates, 92-73, and Tufts, 76-71.

Connecticut College hosted Middlebury with a strong 14-4 record and a high-octane offense. The game was much closer than predictions would have indicated, however, as the Panthers nearly matched the Camels in rebounds, 34-37, and dropped in 23 of 25 free-throw attempts.

Middlebury had five players in double figures, with senior Zach Bourque pacing the team by scoring 14. Andrew Shogan '01 and Keith Watts '01 both recorded 13 points. Senior Chris McLaughlin collected eight boards to lead all Panthers. The team had a higher percentage from three-point land (.389) than it did from the floor in total (.361).

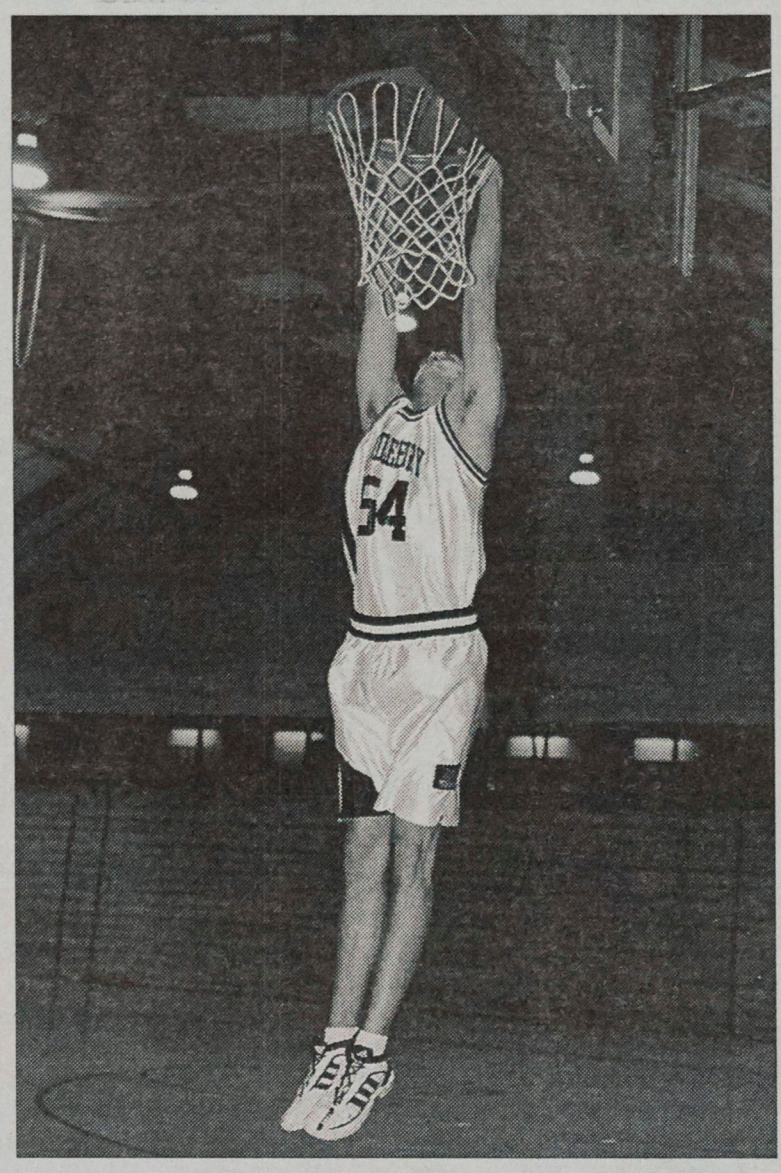
A week later against Bates, the team found its offensive groove, with Bourque leading the way with 17. Shogan and point guard Jon Cormier '01 both poured in 16, with Cormier hitting 4-6 from behind the arc. McLaughlin tied up the loose ends, hitting up the opposition for four steals and burning them for six assists. Matt LaPointe, who despite his atrocious 2-9 shooting, racked up 15 points, led the Bobcats.

The Panthers were once again out rebounded without big men Chad Malone '01 and Romula Braga '03, 34-44, but handed out nine more assists than Bates. The Panthers took a six-point lead into the break, but really broke away with around 12:00 to play when they amassed a 22-point gap. The Bobcats were able to get back to 12 down with 5:00 to play, but that's as close as they would get. Middlebury's efforts from the charity stripe were once again profitable, as they nailed 24-31.

Tufts came to town the next day with a 15-6 record to talk the talk but with an offense that couldn't walk the walk. Dan Flaherty strutted in to Pepin Gym and dropped 30 points. The problem lay in the fact that his next highest-scoring teammate only added 12 points to complement him.

In his first game back from injury, Malone played only six minutes but managed to score a field goal, go 4-4 from the line and grab four rebounds. Watts led the scoring with 17 points and seven rebounds. McLaughlin once again was a behind-th- scenes star, tallying six assists and three steals. Bourque not only turned in 14 points and nine rebounds but also put the game on ice by hitting two free throws with 14 seconds to go, stretching a three-point lead to five.

The team will host Williams this Saturday with a win giving the Panthers a berth in the NESCAC tournament.



Andrew Corrigan

Keith Watts '01 dunks with authority during an informal shoot-around over February Break. The team spent the week on campus.

This coming weekend sends the team on the road to face Conn. College and Wesleyan, two of the league's worst teams. These two games have lost some importance because of the already guaranteed league title. "Winning the league was huge, but we're not looking past this weekend," cautioned Goldman. Earning a bye and home ice for the tournament provides an enormous advantage for Middlebury.

Men's hockey goes cow-tipping in cliching win

(continued from page 28)

Middlebury rolled to an easy 4-0 victory. Matt Snyder, Goldman, Mike Kennedy and Kevin Cooper each scored once, and Carlsson needed to make a mere 10 saves to record his fifth shutout of the season. The Panthers carried play throughout, and were clearly a far superior team.

On Saturday the long-awaited Williams game finally arrived, and Middlebury dominated the hated Ephs. Williams' intimidating purple uniforms did not frighten the Panthers, as they handled the Cows with ease. "We came out well and played a physical first period. Everyone stepped up, and things came up blue," said Goldman. It was obvious early that Coach Beaney had his players especially motivated for this game, as the Panthers peppered Williams goalie Mike Aroesty with 20 shots in the first period, three of which were goals. The Panthers never let up, and cruised to a 6-1 victory. Although Williams is not quite as strong as they were last year, any win against a Williams team is exciting.

Prestigious cup final goal for women's squash

By Andrew Zimmermann
Sports Editor

The Middlebury squash team finished with a split at Mt. Holyoke two weekends ago and enter the Howe Cup championship down at Yale in New Haven sporting an impressive 10-5 record. In a season marked by adversity, the women have fought hard to patch together a more than adequate effort that will land them in good stead next weekend at Yale.

That adversity was realized at Mt. Holyoke when number one player Lisa Pilkington '03 was unable to play in three of the four matches because of a wrist injury. "It was hard getting injured and not being able to play and help the team," said Pilkington regarding her injury and the Panthers 9-0 loss to Colby.

It was the second time the Panthers lost to the squad from upstate Maine, accounting for almost half their losses against 10 wins. Coach David Saward said of the Colby loss, "Colby is one of the better teams we play and they are deep with talent. Given that I thought we could have competed, but when you add in the fact that Lisa was out it made everything that much harder."

The Panthers started the weekend with an 8-1 victory over Mt. Holyoke, finishing with a 5-4 squeaker over Wesleyan. In between were two losses to Colby and Hamilton.

Everyone has done a really good job and stayed positive throughout ... it will no doubt help next year
— Lisa Pilkington '03

The Hamilton loss was particularly disheartening to the squash team because they had worked to a dominating 9-0 win on Jan. 12 at Williams. Coach Saward said, "The loss to Hamilton was tough to take. It wasn't our best effort but we fought despite the circumstances."

After the Mt. Holyoke tournament the ladies returned to Middlebury and now await the fate of the seeding process for the Howe Cup. Ideally the team would like a birth in the B-flight of the tournament but they know results may be hard to come by in the competitive assembly of teams. They also have a chance of obtaining a seed in the lower C-flight in which case Midd would probably be ranked towards the top of the pack. The news will come soon, for the women leave Thursday to make the trip south to New Haven.

The season has been one of grow and change for the women. They started with relatively little experience and learned quickly in "trial-by-fire" situations. First-years have often had to play in big matches. Pilkington, the number-one player for most of the year said of the team, "Everyone has done a really good job and stayed positive throughout. [The first-years] have grown a lot, and it will no doubt help them next year."

Captain Becky Belcher '01 performed admirably as a leader. Coach Saward said of her, "Becky has done a good job and been a fine leader. She has done all that's required of her."

The accolades for a gritty team don't stop there. Saward continued, "Liz Funston '03 played well throughout. Liza Franyo '04 has been steady, Amanda Knappman '04 has been our number-two and has played very competitively while Jane Wilson '01 has played hard too."

Saward said of Pilkington who will be back to play in the Howe Cup, "She has elevated her game this year playing up in the order. She's done well but doesn't have the results to show for it." Pilkington drew every team's best player and performed with steady precision, making the best of the circumstances.

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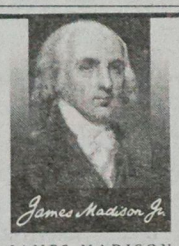

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Labbe earns honors as women's pucks cruises

By Margaret Aycock & Mike Hartt
Staff Writers

With a string of league wins, the Middlebury women's ice hockey team vaulted into first place in the ECAC Division III Women's League. The Panthers, who have maintained their number-one national ranking, now stand at 16-1-1 on the season in NCAA play, with the sole loss coming to Division I Boston College. The team holds a one-point lead over the University of Vermont with one game in hand going into their final regular season weekend showdowns with RPI and UVM.

Women's Hockey

Sunday, February 11th

Middlebury	8
Trinity	0

Saturday, February 10th

Middlebury	9
Amherst	0

This past weekend, Middlebury returned to ECAC league play with contests at Amherst and Trinity. On Saturday the Panthers took on the Jeffs and earned a 8-0 win. Five minutes into the game, Labbe scored her first goal of the night, assisted by A. Neil and E. Neil. Just 30 seconds later, Kapus put the puck in the net for a 2-0 lead (assists to Reid and Carpenter), while three minutes later Anna Hastings '02 gave Middlebury a 3-0 margin (assisted by A. Neil and Jean Butler). Less than a minute later, fellow junior Nina Kieves '03 took Middlebury's lead to 4-0 (assisted by Abigail Lamb '04).

With that, the romp was on, as the Panthers would not look back. Second-period goals by Nico Kieves '02 (assists to Reid and Fonseca), Butler (assisted by Hastings), and Erin Neil (assist to Labbe) and a final third period goal by Labbe (assists to A. Neil and E. Neil) gave Middlebury the final eight-goal winning margin. Madouras made nine saves for the shutout victory, while Middlebury fired 31 shots at the Amherst netminder.

The following day Middlebury faced Trinity at the Kingswood-Oxford Rink in West Hartford, Conn. Just like the night before, Middlebury jumped out on top and did not look back, as Labbe gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead (assisted by Fonseca and Elkins). Elkins scored her own goal seven minutes later (assists to Labbe and A. Neil), and Molly Turco '04 took an Elkins assist for a goal with 45 seconds left in the period. In the second period Middlebury scored three more times, with a power play goal by Nina Kieves (assist to Butler), Elkins' second of the game (from Butler and Hastings), and Reid (assists to Kapus and Laurie Richmond '02). In the third, Erin Neil (from Richmond and Wende), Kapus (assist to Reid), and Nina Kieves (assisted by Richmond and Elkins) all scored goals, giving the Panthers a 9-0 victory. Middlebury's Hutchinson was called on to make only five saves, while Middlebury hit Trinity's two goalies with 65 shots.

On the two league games, "it [gave] us a chance to work on our passing and neutral zone play. It also allowed for many different

(see ECAC, page 25)

Nordic skiing finds form

By Justin Beckwith
Staff Writer

Last weekend a healthy team traveled to Hanover, N.H. to prove their potential. In response, the women finished second and the men moved up to third. The combined team score placed Middlebury in a respectable third-place position.

The women's 10 km classic race was a battle with mother nature. Heavy rain and dirty tracks challenged the skiers. Kate Newick '04 led the Panther charge with yet another sixth-place finish. Megan Sands '02 finished on her heels in a strong seventh-place performance.

Karin Ericson proved her classic strength by placing 15th, and started another Middlebury Sandwich, with Kate Whitcomb and Hannah Taylor just behind in 16th and 17th place. Susan Angst finished 24th. Dartmouth's Anna Harrington won the race with a time of 32:15.

The men's 10 km classic race was also plagued by saturated tracks. Scott Mcart of Dartmouth had no problem with the weather as he blazed to victory. After returning from sickness Tim Weston proved his potential and placed seventh, just ahead of Beckwith who claimed eighth. Matt Whitcomb, also recovering from illness, improved to a 20th place finish. Marshall Greene was just behind in 22nd. Kyle Dezotell had an excellent race finishing 26th.

On Saturday the sky cleared for the 10 km pursuit skate race (in which skiers start in the order they finished with the first skier across the line being the victor). Kate Newick held onto her sixth place spot while Megan Sands fell to 10th place. Kate Whitcomb charged through the pack and finished right on Sand's heels in 11th. Hannah Taylor dropped two spots to finish in 19th place. Karin Ericson and Susan Angst finished 26th and 29th, respectively. UVM's Ekaterina Ivanova attacked to win the pursuit by over a minute.

In the men's pursuit Justin Beckwith flip-flopped places with several skiers, moving up a spot, and finishing seventh. Tim Weston fell to 11th. Matt Whitcomb and Marshall Greene both moved up a place, sprinting against each other for 19th and 20th place. Kyle Dezotell moved up to 25th. Simon Isaacs moved to 34th. UVM's Torgier Lien overtook Mcart for the overall victory.

Alex Westra

Fletcher field house has been temporarily closed down due to concerns over the structural integrity of the aging building.

The fabric of Fletcher falling apart at seams

By Bob Wainwright
Sports Editor

Early yesterday afternoon, members of the indoor track and field and women's squash teams were surprised to find that the doors of their practice facility, Fletcher Field House, were locked.

The decision to close Fletcher was made early yesterday afternoon, the day after tests were conducted to discover the strength of the roof. On Monday, facilities management staff took several core samples from the structure's ceiling. As they took out layer after layer of plywood, they found that each piece was wet.

Afraid that the roof might possibly be in danger of collapsing, the decision was made by Director of Athletics Russ Reilly to close Fletcher for the time being. The locks on the doors to Fletcher have since been changed and very few people in the school have access to the building. The next step that will be taken is to locate an engineer with some familiarity with the structure to bring to Middlebury, so that a formal assessment of the damage to the building can be made.

According to Bob Smith, head baseball coach and the director of intramural programs, "Hopefully, there is a possibility that the engineer will decide that Fletcher is safe enough to be used during the months of February and March. That is the best possible scenario." While Smith did not know when the engineer might come, he said that it would most likely be in the next week or so.

While Fletcher is used at Middlebury year-round, its closing comes at a particularly bad time for both men's and women's track and field and women's squash. This weekend, all three teams have major tournaments away. In track and field, both the men and women have Division III New England's beginning Feb. 17, although the men will be at Tufts and the women will be at Brandeis. Meanwhile women's squash will be traveling to Yale on Friday to participate in the prestigious Howe Cup, a tournament where Middlebury has done well in the past, winning its division only a few years ago. It is still unclear where the squash team will practice beforehand. "I'd be lying if I said we are not a little curious as to where we're going to practice," said Lisa Pilkington '03.

If Fletcher is forced to remain closed for the remainder of the year, it will wreak havoc on a number of varsity team's practices, not to mention the availability for club sports. Nelson Arena, which is currently used exclusively by men's and women's tennis, will have to be converted into an all-purpose facility for tennis, baseball, softball and lacrosse teams.

Due to the completion of the turf field last year, this would have been the first year that none of the aforementioned teams would have been forced into 6 a.m. practices during the months of February and March. Lacrosse is committed to playing on the turf unless the temperature falls below 32 degrees, in which case the teams play inside.

Had Fletcher not been forced to close, the facility would have only been used by baseball, softball, and track and field. Now, those teams and tennis are in danger of losing prime practice time, while they all share Nelson. Other individuals who would suffer from a permanent closure of Fletcher would be those who use the climbing wall. A competition in the near future had already been planned.

Entering the 2000-2001 school year, the plan for Fletcher was for the structure to be completely rebuilt in eight to 10 years. While this latest dilemma will most likely not rush those plans, there is a possibility that the roof will be completely removed this summer and replaced by a bubble roof that can be erected relatively easily.

A meeting was scheduled for the entire athletic staff at 8:30 this morning, during which possible solutions to the Fletcher problem

Charles in Charge

By Charles Gillig
Assistant Sports Editor

Is the NBA back? Not according to the ratings. Increased competitiveness and the emergence of new exciting stars had appeared to rejuvinate the league's drab image, but last Sunday's dismal All-Star ratings illustrates the lack of interest fans show for these "ballers."

The big drop in ratings from last year's game continues a downward trend that questions the integrity of the game. Of course the NBA lockout of 1999 didn't help this drift, but it's the changing nature of the game that is the league's biggest problem. As opposed to the glory days of the 80's, modern teams do not fast break. We're in the middle of the isolation era, where 90 points a game is the norm instead of the 120 commonly seen in the 80s. Where are Alex English and the Denver Nuggests when you need them?

Open-court, fast-breaking basketball is no more. What we have instead is one-on-one, post-up offenses that revolve around everybody going to one side of the court so a player can take his man on the other side. This may be great to pad Iverson, Marbury and Kobe's stats(Hey Kobe: start passing the [insert word of choice] ball!), but fans have lost interest in the individualistic style of play.

What I saw in this year's All-Star game was a flash of the past as both teams ran the court like it was their jobs and provided some much-needed excitement. Spectacular plays seemed to come almost every time down the court, including some moves I've never dreamed of (Jason Kidd's drive and then over-the-shoulder alley-oop to Garnett).

I know, I know, nobody was playing defense out there so the guys could do whatever they wanted. BUT, if the league decides to implement some of the new rules they are considering to encourage more scoring, this type of playing could become the norm. Widening the court or changing the illegal defense rule could bring players out of their isolation shells and help them display the kind of talent that made the NBA the best professional sports league at one time.

I'm not saying the All-Star game style captivates the mind like, let's say the hidden video screenings on Temptation Island, but the talent displayed on Sunday brought back fond memories of All-Star games of the early 90s.

Sunday's game reminded me of the last great All-Star game, 1992 when Magic came back to steal the show and capture the MVP. Who can forget the him hugging Jordan, Bird and Thomas in warm-ups and then hitting a 30-foot hook shot at the end of the half. That was as good as it gets and what the league needs.

Maybe it was the tight finish or the spectacular plays, but I felt the same sense of awe as the '92 game. Magic's game was the end of an era, will this year's be the beginning of one?

Leading men's puck to host NESCACs

By Alan Topalian
Staff Writer

While most of us were away from campus for break, the men's hockey team earned five wins, and is now enjoying a 10-game winning streak. Four of those most recent victories came against the toughest league opponents, and, after the 6-1 pounding of Williams Saturday, the team clinched the regular season league championship, the home-ice advantage throughout the NESCAC tournament, and a first-round bye in that tournament. It was obviously an extremely productive week for the team, and one that provides optimism and excitement for the impending postseason.

Men's Hockey

Saturday, February 10th

Williams	1
Middlebury	6

Friday, February 9th

Mass. College	0
Middlebury	4

Two weekends ago the team celebrated the conclusion of Winter Term with a long road trip to Maine for contests against Bowdoin and Colby. Friday night's foe, Bowdoin, gave the Panthers a tough contest, but Middlebury eventually emerged with a tough 2-1 win. Senior defenseman Matt Skoglund initiated the scoring 12:32 into the game with an assist from captain Scott Goldman '01. The Polar Bears managed to tie the score on the power play in the second period, but first-year Will Chang, continuing the trend of strong play by freshmen, tallied the game winner at 5:40 of the third. Middlebury goalie Christian Carlsson '02 played a typically strong game, especially in clutch situations, and stopped all eight third period shots that he faced.

On Saturday the team trekked up RT. 95 to Waterville to face Colby, which, like Bowdoin, is one of the strongest squads in the league. Middlebury played poorly early, and spotted the White Mules a 2-0 lead five minutes into the second period. Two minutes later, however, the offense came alive and struck for five unanswered goals in the 5-2 win. First-year Adam Foote connected for the first two Panther scores, with the first coming on a power play at 7:05 of the second. The team headed to the locker room after two periods still trailing 2-1, but goals from Foote, Matt Dunn '02, Grayson Fertig '02, and Scot Curtin '04 in a 6:39 span during the third period ensured the Middlebury victory.

Last Tuesday Amherst came to Middlebury for a non-NESCAC contest. Earlier this season, in a matchup which did contribute to the league standings, the Panthers defeated Amherst in a close 2-1 game. Last week's game was not nearly as thrilling as the earlier one, and Middlebury earned a 6-3 win. Firt-year goalie Marc Scheuer started in net and made 20 saves. The teams traded goals through the first two periods and ended the second in a 3-3 tie. Middlebury played an inspired third period, and scored three third period goals.

Last Friday night the Panthers faced an overmatched Mass. College of Liberal Arts squad, and

(see Men's, page 26)

Andrew Corrigan

Adam Foote '04 manhandles an outmatched Amherst defender during the Panther's 6-3 victory on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Make way for 'snowballing' alpine ski team

By Andrew Zimmermann
Sports Editor

With just one carnival before the Panthers come home to Middlebury, the alpine ski team is doing all the right things. The ski squad is working together as a team. The team is coming around at the right time. And they're all pumped. Believe it or not all these clichés are true and so their use is valid. After a fourth overall at Vermont (UVM) and a third overall at Dartmouth last weekend, the racers from Middlebury find themselves in an auspicious position going down to Williams this Friday.

The fourth and third place finishes can be deceiving though because they take into account combined nordic and alpine scores. Keep in mind that in the past two carnivals, no alpine team, men's or women's, has finished lower than fourth in any of the skiing disciplines, GS or slalom. While the nordic team tended to carry the ski program at earlier carnivals, lately the opposite has been true. At Dartmouth, this past weekend for example the women beat host Dartmouth and finished second only to UVM.

The UVM and Dartmouth carnivals also saw the emergence of the full potential of the ski team. New names like Brie Pike-Sprenger '04, Nina Porcelli '04, Chad McConathy '04 and Fred Emich IV '04 all came to the forefront of the team with key contributions.

In all, the Dartmouth carnival was Middlebury's most complete effort as a team by far this season. Instead of two or three skiers carrying the load, four and sometimes five racers were able to contribute solid points to the team's cause. Eric Rygg '03 said of new contributors like McConathy and Emich IV, "Those guys make it a lot easier. The young guys are healthy now and they are really working on getting better each week."

Mr. Consistency himself, Eric Rygg tore down Mt. Mansfield finishing within two-hundredths of a second in his two GS runs to take eighth overall. Andy Peters '03 had his back with an 11th. In the slalom, Coriell posted a 10th, Rygg an 11th, and Emich IV a 24th good for 15 points for the men's side.

At UVM the women showed perhaps some of what was to come at Dartmouth the next week. Pike-Sprenger took a 13th in the GS while teammates Scripture and Bonney took care of business with a 12th and 15th respectively. Pike-Sprenger

(see Ski, page 25)

Old foe will challenge women's hoops

By Charles Gillig
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team has to win the NESCAC championship the hard way. After a 58-57 loss to Bates last Friday night, the Panthers(15-6) will not have home court advantage in the NESCAC tournament. This does not bode well for a team that has struggled to a 5-5 (1-3 in NESCAC play) away record.

Road woes continued for the Panthers (4-4 in NESCAC) when they traveled to Bates and Tufts last weekend for two tight games.

Women's Basketball

Saturday, February 10th

Middlebury	69
Tufts	67

Friday, February 9th

Middlebury	57
Bates	58

Against Bates (5-2 in NESCAC) the Panthers jumped out to a 10-point lead at the half. The athletic Bates squad cut the lead to two with 17 seconds left when Megan McCosker '02 stepped to the foul line and the controversy began: McCosker missed both free throws, and on the second miss Alexis Batten '04 was called for pushing off on the rebound. The foul, which allowed Bates to tie the game with two free throws, baffled many Panther players. "I was just boxing out," Batten said.

Officiating came into play a few seconds later when the Panthers tried to inbound to Kristin Hanley '03 with 3.3 seconds left. Hanley and a Bates player struggled for the loose ball and as they rolled over .Hanley was called for a foul. Bates sank the second free throw and won the game.

Despite much frustration over the finish, there were some bright spots for the team. First-year forwards Batten and Kate Shillo contributed big points and rebounds in replace of Wesley Hyatt '03 and Amy Lowell '01 who had foul trouble. "We play well when we're out there together," Batten said of the first-year tandem. Hanley was also happy with the team's performance as she called it their "best all-around game all season."

On Saturday, Tufts hosted the team in a must-win situation. The game got off to a rocky start as co-caption McCosker went down with a sprained ankle three minutes into it. The Panthers held a one-point lead at the break, but Tufts jumped out to a 9-0 run to start the half and extended its lead to 10. However, the Panthers rallied back, led by some key three pointers by the ailing McCosker who played the entire second half. Hanley also had a big game with 20 points and 10 rebounds while Amy Lowell '01 contributed 10 points and 10 boards. In the end, the Panthers held on for the victory, retaining their fifth spot in the conference.

Earlier in the week, Hamilton came into Pepin Gynmasium and never led as the Panthers rolled to an 82-70 win. Hanley had another big game with 24 points as Middlebury finished the season with a 7-1

(see Hanley, page 24)

Spring fever

Andrew Corrigan

Enjoying the warm spring air, *Pete Hennessy '03 braves the snow and throws around the baseball with some friends outside of Hadley on Tuesday afternoon. The warm day had many people thinking spring.*